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Key Developments

Zatulin Criticizes Yeltsin Remarks Against Officials

LD2410151195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — State Duma Deputy and leader of the Kuban branch of the Congress of Russian Communities Konstantin Zatulin has circulated a statement which describes President Yeltsin's remarks on the Congress of Russian Communities as interference in this opposition bloc's internal affairs.

Yeltsin told reporters on October 17 that he highly appreciated the professional qualities of Congress Chairman Yuriy Skokov. Concurrently he criticized the Congress's other leader General Aleksandr Lebed.

Zatulin thinks that Yeltsin's remarks were motivated by the wish to sow the seeds of mistrust between the Congress leaders. "It's tactless and improper for a president, as a state official, to give assessments to individual blocs on the eve of the elections," said Zatulin.

"On behalf of the Kuban and Adygeyan branches of the Congress of Russian Communities I would like to state that we trust our leaders. We have never yielded to pressure and can stand the trial of flattery," he said.

Zyuganov: Yeltsin Attack Increases CPRF's Chances

LD2510182195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1614 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Yuriy Konshin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEKATERINBURG, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — Leader of Russian communists Gennadiy Zyuganov on Wednesday said that his party should be only grateful to President Boris Yeltsin for his bitter attack on it during a recent news conference.

Last Thursday, Yeltsin told reporters that it was important not to allow the communists to win a majority in the State Duma, lower house of the Russian parliament, and called for launching a campaign against them. "I support all parties with the exception of the communists and Zhirinovskyites," he said.

"We are only to thank Boris Nikolayevich (Yeltsin) and buy him a box of cognac, as (his remarks were) immediately followed by a tide of applications for membership in our party, and mainly from young people," Zyuganov told a news conference, meaning that criticism from the authorities only increases chances of the party in December polls.

The communist leader is currently campaigning in this major industrial centre in the Ural mountains, holding a series of meetings with workers, university professors, union leaders and of course members of local branches of his party.

Zyuganov expressed firm confidence that the December elections will be dominated by communists, and accused the democratic leadership of plunging the country into the current crisis.

"The present system is not only unstable but it is dangerously explosive," he stressed, adding that the government "has not a single serious programme for the future." Communists, on the contrary, have well elaborated strategic schemes to overcome the crisis, Zyuganov said.

Speaking about chances to form a united bloc of left-wing forces for the elections, Zyuganov said that communists are ready to cooperate with the Agrarian Party, "Nikolay Ryzhkov's Power to the People" movement, the Congress of Russian Communities led by Yuriy Skokov, and maybe even with the reformist Yabloko, provided its leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy does nor treat Russia as a zone for his experiments."

Lukyanov: Communists Reserve Right To Sue Yeltsin

LD2510205295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — The Communist Party will abstain from filing a law suit against President Yeltsin following his negative statements about the Communists at his meeting with journalists on October 17. However, it reserves the right to do so at any time and it will closely monitor comments on President Yeltsin's statements, State Duma member, former speaker of the USSR Supreme Soviet Anatoliy Lukyanov has said.

President Yeltsin told the media that the Communists' election victory would be impermissible.

Lukyanov recalled that the Communist Party had issued an official statement describing Yeltsin's words as a "hint to all genuinely extremist forces that they have a free hand." The Communist Party will regard "any unlawful action against it during the election campaign as authorized by President Yeltsin."

Lukyanov dismissed as groundless electoral commission chairman Nikolay Ryabov's recent statement to the effect that the president had the right to make such a statement.

Lukyanov argues that the president as the highest official in the country has no right to openly favor any political force taking part in the election campaign.

"Boris Yeltsin gave an impetus to the system. We shall now wait and see how it all works and we reserve the right to take the case to court," Lukyanov said.

Ryabov Threatens To Cancel NDR's Registration

LD2410181295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 24 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is "calm" about a proposal to take a week or more of vacation to advance his election campaign put forward by Central Electoral Commission Chairman Nikolay Ryabov. Chernomyrdin made this statement in an interview with INTERFAX after the Federation Council's vote on the new prosecutor general Tuesday.

If the prime minister does not follow this piece of advice, the commission will have to appeal to the Supreme Court to cancel the registration of Chernomyrdin's Our Home Is Russia [NDR], Ryabov told journalists at the INTERFAX Headquarters in Moscow Monday.

"We will straighten it out and everything will be okay," Chernomyrdin said commenting on Ryabov's statement.

Ryzhkov: Vacation Not Required

LD2510150995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who leads the Our Home is Russia election alliance, does not have to take a vacation during the election campaign, deputy chairman of the movement's executive Vladimir Ryzhkov has said.

He said that Central Electoral Commission chairman Nikolay Ryabov merely expressed his personal opinion, when he said that the prime minister should take at least a week's leave during the election campaign. Ryzhkov said that any official could be relieved from his post at his own request until official election returns are published, but nobody can force a candidate to take a vacation.

Ryzhkov argues that another legal restriction on candidates prohibiting them from using their office in the interests of their election does not prevent Chernomyrdin from performing his duties.

Ryzhkov said that it would be quite enough if Chernomyrdin acted "just as a prime minister and not as the leader of an election movement."

At the same time he said that adequate coverage of Chernomyrdin's activities in the media would be very important in preventing likely conflicts.

Commission Uses Article To Disqualify Candidate

MM2610100695 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Tselikov: "Article in IZVESTIYA Blocks Route to State Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The District Electoral Commission for Moscow's Leningradskiy Electoral District No. 194 has refused to register Democratic Party of Russia member Oleg Samarin as a State Duma candidate.

One month ago IZVESTIYA, in a report entitled "How I Worked for a State Duma Candidate," described how the collection of signatures for this prospective deputy was organized. For this the reporter had to become a collector of signatures and run the whole gamut from instruction and obtaining credentials to obtaining the money to be earned. The article described how minors were recruited for the collection of signatures and quoted the following advertisement: "Everyone. Everyone. Everyone who wants to earn money. We invite everyone aged 12 to 80 who wishes to take part in collecting signatures in support of prospective deputy...."

At the commission session it was reported that, against a norm set at 4,500 signatures, 8,577 were submitted, of which 2,703 were deemed invalid. The main violations on the signature lists were numerous additions and corrections to passport details, signatures written in the same hand, falsification of passport numbers....

The electoral commission specifically discussed the IZVESTIYA article and took account of it when making its decision.

LDPR Excludes 'Criminal' Candidates From List

LD2510205495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1759 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia has excluded all persons who had or have criminal records from the list of candidates for the State Duma, LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told journalists in Moscow Wednesday.

Earlier, the Central Electoral Commission officially notified election blocs of candidates with previous criminal record on their lists. According to a statement made by the commission, if blocs ignore this information it will be publicized in the press.

Zhirinovskiy believes the approach is unconstitutional since "if a person had served his sentence he is clean before the law" and has the right to run for the Duma.

However, LDPR excluded doubtful candidacies from its list "in order to be absolutely invulnerable," he said.

Candidate Denies Conflict With Law

LD2410142295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1234 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — In an interview with INTERFAX General Viktor Filatov, a candidate for elections to the State Duma from the Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR], has categorically denied reports that he had any conflict with the law. The emergence of his name in the relevant Interior Ministry lists is a misunderstanding, he said.

The list of candidates, who had been convicted or were under investigation, handed by the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Nikolay Ryabov to INTERFAX on Monday includes Filatov Viktor Ivanovich, born in 1935 in Moscow, whom a military tribunal had sentenced to four years in jail.

According to Filatov, he was born in Magnitogorsk, not in Moscow, and at the time of his supposed trial (1957) and stay in jail he was a cadet of the Zhdanov Naval School in Leningrad.

As Filatov maintains, when the Central Electoral Commission sent its information concerning LDP candidates who had been convicted or were under investigation to Zhirinovskiy, he presented to the party leader documents testifying to his innocence.

"I have nothing to do with the man mentioned in the Interior Ministry lists; it's just that our names fully coincide," Filatov pointed out.

As INTERFAX reported earlier, the lists in question contain the names of 12 candidates from the Liberal Democratic Party; on the whole they include over 80 names.

Yavlinskiy: Yabloko Not To Form Bloc With DVR

LD2510222795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2134 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UFA, Oct 25 (INTERFAX-Eurasia) — Yabloko should be well-represented in the future State Duma so that after the Yabloko candidate wins the presidential elections, the executive and legislative powers will act in the same direction, Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said.

Yavlinskiy came to Bashkortostan as part of the election campaign.

The Yabloko movement wants our country not to be criminal or overwhelmed with monopolies, Yavlinskiy told a press conference in Ufa today.

Yavlinskiy promised that if he won the presidential elections he would prevent the national economy from declining and would form a middle class "which as yet is non-existent."

Yavlinskiy said he favored the federal state system and territorial integrity of Russia. "I am against revising the treaties concluded between the center and the federation's constituent members. However, I deem it necessary to adopt a federal law which would make the signing of separate documents unnecessary," he said.

Yabloko has decided not to form a bloc with Russia's Democratic Choice [DVR] because "Gaydar is for Yeltsin, and I am against him," Yavlinsky said.

Yavlinskiy will visit the Sterlitamak and Salavat towns in Bashkortostan on October 26 and will return to Moscow.

Volskiy To Form Bloc With Communists, Agrarians

LD2410204595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NIZHNIY NOVGOROD, Oct 24 (INTERFAX-Eurasia) — The Labor Union bloc which includes the United Industrialists' Party and the Federation of Russia's Independent Labor Unions intends to form a joint faction with Communists or Agrarians in the next State Duma, Arkadiy Volskiy, head of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Russia and one of the Industrialists' Party leaders, said in Nizhniy Novgorod Tuesday.

Meeting with the region's labor union leaders, he said that the Labor Union bloc favors state regulation of the economy, protectionism favoring domestic producers and the creation of "a state market of goods and services."

Volskiy stressed that the bloc's program is similar to Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

Blocs Call Registration Refusal 'Deliberate Act'

LD2410173295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1336 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 24 (INTERFAX) — Leaders of the Democratic Russia and Free

Trade Unions election bloc at a news conference Tuesday called the Central Electoral Commission's [CEC] refusal to register the party for elections a "deliberate act."

Leaders of the Democratic Russia movement (DRM) [DRSP—Demokraticheskay Rossiya i Svobodniye Profsoyzy] Galina Starovoytova, Lev Ponomarev and Gleb Yakunin said the commission dismissed their election signature lists for not meeting the official deadline.

The movement's campaign chairman Andrey Frolov claims the lists were delivered to the CEC at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday but were made available to the registrars only at 11:45 p.m.. Only 35,000 signatures had been verified before midnight when the acceptance of lists was completed as provided by the law.

Starovoytova is convinced that her election bloc was deliberately chosen to play the part of Cinderella whose dress turns into rags exactly at midnight.

She said Democratic Russia had complied with the law by collecting 212,000 signatures laying the blame for technicalities on the CEC rather than her own bloc.

For his part, Yakunin described the commission's refusal as a drive for cutting off both the far right and far left at the December poll.

However, DRM leaders are still undecided whether or not to contest the CEC decision in the High Court. "We are holding consultations with lawyers," Ponomarev said.

They said 15 DRM candidates would nonetheless contest seats in single-mandate constituencies. DRM will also field candidates to fight local elections. "The Democratic Russia will now be rebuilt from below," Ponomarev said.

FITUR Challenges Ryabov's Electoral Violation Remarks

MM2610101295 Moscow TRUD in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Nadezhda Grineva: "Shmakov Versus Ryabov. FITUR Files Charges Against Central Electoral Commission Chairman To Find Out 'Who Is Behind This'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What is impelling a respectable public organization take this step? We asked Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR] Secretary Andrey Isayev for an answer to this question. He told us about Ryabov's interview with the INTERFAX and POSTFACTUM news agencies aired on the morning of Saturday 21 October. In it Ryabov said that there are numerous complaints being made about electoral associations violating the law. The examples cited included the following. A Muscovite — her name and other data were not cited — sent the Central Electoral Commission a letter saying that she had received a written invitation from FITUR to turn up at a specific address and receive 10,000 rubles for her signature in support of their prospective deputy.

"This statement is extremely strange and slanderous from beginning to end," Isayev stressed. "The bloc collected about 1 million signatures. If you multiply that figure by the amount of the 'bribe,' you will see how feasible the charge is."

In connection with this, FITUR decided to file charges with a court in INTERFAX's place of business — under the Russian Federation Civil Code proceedings are instituted against the mass medium and the author of the statement. The FITUR leadership is fully determined to find out "who is behind this" and punish the culprit.

Nationalists' Leader Outlines Goals at Conference

MK2510144695 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Irina Khristolyubova: "Nationalists 'Harbor No Illusion About Parliamentarism' in Russia. Aleksandr Barkashev on Leave To Work on His Book"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The All-Russia Social and Patriotic Movement "Russian National Unity" (RNYe) held a news conference in Moscow yesterday devoted to its 5-year anniversary. Konstantin Nikitenko, leader of the Moscow regional organization of RNYe, told reporters about what had been done since the day it was founded (20 October 1990), outlining its goals and prospects for the near future.

Opening the news conference, the leaders of the movement considered it necessary to apologize for the absence of RNYe's leader Aleksandr Barkashev, accounting for this by his being on leave now to finish his book.

Mr. Nikitenko recalled that RNYe was only running in single-seat constituencies. The number of nationalist candidates is large, he said, but to speak in detail about this will only be possible after they are officially registered by the Central Electoral Committee. However, in his view, the nationalists "harbor no illusions about parliamentarism in this country." They consider the current State Duma to be "a bad parody on a parliament," seeing the future one as "still worse" due to the superfluity of the parties. In connection with this, Konstantin Nikitenko publicly declared that the Barkashovites, not striving to seize power, were simply "using the canvassing campaign to spread their ideas." According to Aleksandr Rashitskiy, RNYe press service head, who also spoke at the conference, the nationalist leader, Mr. Barkashev, is not going to run for parliament personally because he feels that taking the step is "beneath his dignity."

Mr. Rashitskiy was very categorical about eventual cooperation with other patriotic forces in the upcoming elections, and stated that the RNYe represents "a self-sufficient political organization, which needs no allying with whatever blocs or movements." "We will take our own road," concluded Aleksandr Rashitskiy.

Admiral Baltin To Run on 'For the Motherland' List

LD2510212195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1155 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sevastopol, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — I am sick of military men having to listen to unprofessional deputies. That is the explanation which Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, gave for his decision to enter the election struggle for a seat in Russia's State Duma on the list of the "For the Motherland" electoral bloc.

When deputies who are ignorant of military strategy and the operational arts attempt to "referee" the man in uniform, it reminds me of a soccer game with 10,000 fans shouting at the players to tell them where to run," the admiral said. [no beginning quotation marks as received]

He complained about the imprecise nature of his powers in deciding the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. Baltin considers that a seat in parliament would increase these powers. Moreover, he said, "the situation in the country is now such that officers and generals, who are not indifferent to the fate of Russia, must enter politics. For if people are not provided with leadership today, tomorrow they will follow extremists."

Daily Announces Charges for Campaign Ads

MM2510144195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 1

[Editorial Announcement: "Election Campaign Costs Money"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the current election campaign, inquiries from electoral blocs, associations, and individual candidate deputies are coming in concerning the procedure for the publication of pre-election materials, including those requiring payment. In response to these requests, today we are publishing the rates for the publication of pre-election campaigning materials requiring payment.

RATES for the Publication of Pre-Election Materials Requiring Payment in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA

One page	80,000,000
One-half of a page	42,100,000
One-third of a page	33,800,000
One-fourth of a page	22,700,000

The rates are given in rubles, taking value-added tax into account.

The ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA editorial office confirms that it is prepared to cooperate with electoral associations and blocs and State Duma candidate deputies. At the same time, we note that ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA is the only one of all the mass media to be instructed by the law on elections to publish free of charge all lists of State Duma candidate deputies who are put forward by electoral blocs and associations and registered by the Central Electoral Commission. The volume of these items totals over 140 newspaper pages in all. Unfortunately, the money envisaged by the budget for these purposes has so far not been allocated to the editorial office, although the prime cost of just one page comes to tens of millions of rubles. In the face of this, the editorial office does not have the possibility to publish additional electoral materials free of charge.

Zhirinovskiy Unveils Plan To Redraw Internal Borders

LD2510152795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1421 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy today unveiled his plan for revamping Russia's administration and declared that the plan must be fulfilled by President Boris Yeltsin.

Zhirinovskiy told a press conference in the State Duma building today that the head of state would have to divide the country into 40 gubernias [provinces], beginning on January 1, 1996, and personally appoint all governors.

Zhirinovskiy said he set March 1 as the date on which the creation of an "East-European community with its centre in Moscow" would be announced. The community, which would consist of all countries wishing to join a new Russia, will introduce the rouble as its single common currency from May 1, Zhirinovskiy said.

The LDPR leader announced that he had sent letters to the Defence Minister, the Chief of Staff, the Interior Minister, and the leaders of the Federal Security Service, the Body-Guard Service and the Federal Government Communication Service proposing to consider the possibility of setting up a State Council which would "take effective actions to pull the country out of the crisis."

The new State Council, he said, should also include the President of the Russian Federation, a new Prime Minister, and a new Foreign Minister, as well as the leader of the party which wins the elections and the leader of the main opposition party.

Zhirinovskiy told the press conference that his party had deleted from its list of nominees all those who had been mentioned by name in the Interior Ministry report submitted to the Central Election Committee as "having had problems with the country's law enforcement agencies."

Forecasts & Commentary

'Versions' Forecasts Possible Voting Patterns

LD2410193395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 2120 GMT on 23 October in the 15-minute "Versions" program, hosted by Sergey Dorenko, looked at likely voting patterns in the 17 December Duma elections. Yelena Petrenko, deputy general director of the Mneniye public opinion association, presented in the studio the results of two nationwide polls conducted in September and October. The first poll predicted the following pattern of voting in the Duma elections: 11 percent of the 4,500 respondents said they would vote for the Communist Party of the Russian Federation: 7 percent for Women of Russia; 5 percent for Russia Is Our Home; 5 percent for Yabloko; 4 percent for the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia; 3 percent for the Agrarian Party of Russia; 3 percent for Russia's Democratic Choice; and below 3 percent for other parties.

"The Communist Party is leading in all polls," Petrenko said. "It should just be noted that the Communists' electorate is practically fully mobilized. Among those people who intend to vote for the communists all have basically already decided to vote. They have made their decision. The Communist Party electorate is characterized by a wide spectrum of motives for voting. The predominant motive in this spectrum is, I want people I trust to win and not those politicians who are alien to me and whom I do not trust. The predominant motive in the Yabloko electorate is voting so as not to let people I don't trust win."

The results of the second poll were then presented. It questioned the 30 percent of people who in the first poll had said that they would vote but had not yet decided for whom. Asked when they would decide, 11 percent replied one month before the elections, 12 percent one week before, 23 percent a few days before and 36 percent on the day.

Dmitriy Olshanskiy, director of the Center for Strategic Analysis and Forecasting, presented in the studio the results of a survey of political analysts in which they predicted the influence of regional leaders on Russian politics. In October Moscow mayor Yuriy Luzhkov is thought to be most influential; second is Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev; third Sverdlovsk Region governor Eduard Rossel; fourth Nizhnyy Novgorod Region governor Boris Nemtsov; fifth Aslan Maskhadov, commander-in-chief of the Chechen armed forces; sixth Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev; and seventh Amangeldy Tuleyev, chairman of the Kemerovo Region Legislative Assembly and a Communist Party candidate in the Duma elections. In December 1995 the top four are predicted to remain the same while Aman Tuleyev becomes the fifth most influential politician, Shaymiyev remains sixth and Maskhadov slips to seventh.

"Moscow and Russia have voted against one another in almost all previous elections, so it certainly cannot be ruled out that sooner or later Russia will realize that it has its own corporate, non-Moscow interests and one of the heroes in the provincial ratings will get the necessary votes to become number one in Moscow," Dorenko commented in conclusion.

Ryzhkov Views NDR Funding, 'Criminal' Candidates

MM2510142895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 2

[Interview with Vladimir Ryzhkov, deputy chairman of the "Pussia Is Our Home" executive committee, by Viktor Vodolazhskiy; place and date not given: "Voter's Indifference Is Suicide for Russia" — first three paragraphs are ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] And so the electoral fog is gradually beginning to lift. It is already known that of the 69 political parties, associations, and blocs which not so recently were trying to nominate their candidates for the elections to the State Duma far from all will continue any further.

Let me recall that among the first to receive the Central Electoral Commission certificate "on receipt from the... electoral association of documents for registration of federal list of candidates" and to undergo registration itself was the "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] public association.

"The entire registration procedure took about two hours," Vladimir Ryzhkov, deputy chairman of the NDR executive committee and State Duma deputy, said in a talk with your ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent. "We submitted 212,000 signatures to the commission collected in 43 regions of Russia. In all the NDR at this stage collected about 2 million signatures of potential voters. The NDR lists contain 222 candidates for deputies' seats."

[Vodolazhskiy] The first barrier has been overcome. What next?

[Ryzhkov] In the very near future the NDR financial fund will be opened. According to legislation it comprises 10.9 billion rubles [R] and is used for election campaigning. Here R4.2 billion is being put into the fund by the association itself while the remainder is being contributed by sponsors, most of whom are "regional corporate bodies" — enterprises and organizations....

[Vodolazhskiy] Can one say now how the composition of the Duma will change after the December elections?

[Ryzhkov] In my opinion 40-80 percent of deputies of the present Duma will keep their seats. That would be a good thing. Our parliament must become professional. And if deputies start to work in it for 10-15 years (as in many civilized countries) that will guarantee it stability, continuity, and professionalism.

[Vodolazhskiy] It is known that criminal elements are doing everything to try to get into parliament. The MVD [Internal Affairs Ministry] has even sent the Central Electoral Commission a list of slightly over 80 candidates who have a criminal past. Is this danger a real one?

[Ryzhkov] Entirely. As a rule these "candidates" have a lot of money. I know that one candidate at the recent gubernatorial elections in a major Russian city who, incidentally, headed a fund in his name, campaigned for himself, selling the city's inhabitants bread at reduced prices. His goal now is the State Duma. It is clear that dirty money is being "laundered" in these election campaigns and there is overt bribery of voters. There are dozens of these contenders for deputies' seats.

Incidentally, the MVD's "criminal list" is far from the full picture.

[Vodolazhskiy] What else perturbs you on the eve of the elections?

[Ryzhkov] People's passiveness. I have just spoken with our representatives in Belgorod. Despite the fact that the election of the governor is also taking place there 17 December specialists predict that only 40 percent of voters will go to the polls and in other places that percentage could be even smaller — 20-30 percent.

[Vodolazhskiy] It is no secret that people are speaking of the possibility of the falsification of the ballot.

[Ryzhkov] I led the working commission which prepared the Russian Federation law "on fundamental guarantees of citizens' electoral rights" adopted back at the end of last year. So I know that no country has ever had the range of guarantees of public control over the course of the elections as we have now. Any electoral association and every candidate can appoint his own observer or member of the electoral commission with a voice but no vote. In accordance with the law journalists, international observers, and ordinary citizens have the right to take part in the observation and monitoring. So that any falsifications are ruled out in principle.

Skokov, Lebed Seen Parting Company After Elections

MM2610103295 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Commentary by Gennadiy Svobodin: "Yeltsin Needs Skokov and Skokov Needs Lebed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Observant analysts have already identified the Zhirinovskiy phenomenon at the last elections. In big-time politics nothing happens by chance. The Russian president needed Zhirinovskiy for at least two reasons.

First, he could always jab his finger at the LDPR [Liberal Democrat Party of Russia] leader and bellow: "If I don't win, he will."

Second, the voters, who are little versed in election subtleties, had a new leader shoved under their noses in order to divert attention from the Communists. The trick worked.

In 1993 very few people knew of the LDPR, but it effectively won the elections. In 1995 as well, almost no one knows the "Congress of Russian Communities" [KRO] electoral association. This is not a party with a clear political program but essentially an alliance of people who want to govern the country.

For example, what is it that unites the party's No. 1 (Yuriy Skokov) and its No. 2 (Aleksandr Lebed)? Is it the party's No. 3 (Sergey Glazyev)? Say what you like, but Skokov and Lebed are completely different personalities. The first is dry, pragmatic, and cautious in his choice of expression. People who know him well assert that he is egotistical and reasons according to the principle that "there is my point of view and any other view is wrong." He gets on well with President B. Yeltsin; he has nowhere condemned him publicly for edict No. 1400 and for shooting civilians near the House of Soviets and on the square outside "Ostankino." At a later date he would not be averse to trying out the presidential chair for size himself.

But what is being offered to Lebed — the chief "carrier rocket" of this election association?

It would appear that he understands that, having fulfilled the role of "carrier rocket" to launch the craft called KRO into political orbit, he will have to "burn up," that is to say, noisily part with his allies.

December is not so important when June lies ahead. Knowing our electorate and the Russian soul, which readily sympathizes with a man who has been wronged, and the native respect for a man in shoulderboards — and one with a commanding voice and caustic turn of phrase to boot — which has still not been eradicated from the people's consciousness or hearts, there is every possibility that he may campaign for the top job in the Kremlin.

Zyuganov: Elections 'Only Peaceful Solution'

BR2410155195 Madrid LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 23 Oct 95 p 8

[Interview with Russian Communist Party President Gennadiy Zyuganov by Rafael Poch in Moscow; date not given: "Zyuganov: 'I Would Call the Events of Recent Years in Russia Genocide Rather Than Reform'" — first paragraph is LA VANGUARDIA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Five years since the fall of the USSR, the Russian Communist Party is the strongest and most united party in the country. In the strange context of Russian politics, the Communist Party is a moderate nationalist force as well as being a centrist party. Since 1993 the Communists have recorded the best results in regional and local elections.

[Poch] Will Russia reach the 1996 and 1997 parliamentary and presidential elections without incident or coups?

[Zyuganov] All the events of recent years have been like a coup. First there was the destruction of the USSR, and now the Russian Federation is being destroyed along with its economic base, its competitiveness, its spirituality, and all the other aspects of life. Output has dropped by 50 percent and we have lost two million people in the last two years. Our powers find this normal. We have 20 million people out of work, 15 million starving, 6 million refugees, two million children of school age are not receiving an education, plus we have millions of vagabonds. I do not call that reform — I call it genocide.

The only peaceful solution is through elections, but we are constantly being provoked. The most significant provocation was the bombing of the Serbs, which was quite unprecedented in terms of its scale and consequences, and then there was the murder of one of the leaders of Abkhazia, the mortar attack on the American Embassy in Moscow, and terrorist acts in Chechnya and Budennovsk. Future months will be very hard for Russia.

[Poch] How can you oppose election rigging when people are unhappy yet passive?

[Zyuganov] The people are tired and unhappy, but a feeling of hate is growing and it could explode violently. Luckily our memory of the civil war has managed to put a brake on this. In addition there is a massive resistance to the current regime. Yeltsin has just put off the general elections and the regional council elections because he is afraid. This, too, is a coup at regional level.

There will be a lot of electoral fiddling. Yesterday I read a report by the U.S. secret services which stated that 9 million votes were rigged in favor of the Constitution in the referendum of 12 December 1993.

[Poch] What are the ulterior motives of the plan to reunite Russia and Belarus?

[Zyuganov] A new state requires new electoral rules. It could be used as a reason for postponing the presidential elections. In addition to Belarus, the Caucasus solution, with artillery and machine guns, could be used, or the Central Asian solution with a referendum extending presidential powers to the year 2000. Another possibility would be to tote up violations and irregularities and declare that the elections were not valid, as in Kazakhstan. What we have in Moscow is a hybrid of all these possibilities. May God deliver us from the Caucasian solution which we have already seen once before in October 1993 [the storming of the Russian parliament].

[Poch] Will you stand for president?

[Zyuganov] We are looking to restrict the autocracy of presidential power but we will use that role to strengthen peace in Russia.

[Poch] How should Russia respond to the enlargement of NATO and the possibility of the deployment of missiles in Poland and the Czech Republic?

[Zyuganov] NATO must convert itself into a political organization. The installation on our borders of nuclear weapons that could strike Moscow in just a few minutes will always be considered to be a threat by any Russian political leader from whatever party. Russia will have to take immediate steps, including suspending the process for nuclear and conventional arms reduction.

Communists Lead in September Poll

964E0120A Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 Oct 95 p 3

[Article by Oleg Savelyev, All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center: "Russian Views Run the Political Gamut in Anticipation of the New Elections; Almost Half of the Voters Plan To Cast a Ballot"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During a poll of the 1,527 Russians in a sample group representing the adult population of the Russian Federation, conducted by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center from 15 to 19 September 1995, some of the survey questions concerning opinions of various political associations and the upcoming elections evoked the following responses, which are cited in percentages here, occasionally along with the data of earlier surveys of this kind by the research center.

"If the State Duma elections were to be held next Sunday, would you vote or not?"

Responses	August	September
Certainly not	25	25
Probably not	13	13
Undecided	16	17
Probably	19	18
Certainly (barring unforeseen circumstances)	21	24
No response	6	3

Most of those who were certain they would not vote were university and secondary school students, soldiers, the personnel of law enforcement agencies, unemployed individuals, blue-collar workers and, in general, people under the age of 25, with a secondary education or less, and with a low income, living in rural communities and big cities.

The respondents who were most enthusiastic about voting, on the other hand, were managerial and administrative personnel, pensioners and, in general, men over the age of 55, with a higher education and a relatively high or average income, living in the capitals (Moscow and St. Petersburg), in small cities, and in Siberia and the Far East.

"If the State Duma Elections Were To Be Held Next Sunday, Which Party or Bloc on the List Would You Be Most Likely To Support?"

Agrarian Party of Russia (M. Lapshin—A. Zaveryukha—V. Starodubtsev)	3
"YaBLoko" (G. Yavlinskiy—B. Lukin—T. Yarygina)	8
"Power to the People!" bloc (N. Ryzhkov—S. Baburin—Ye. Shuvalova)	1
"Democratic Russia" bloc (L. Ponomarev—G. Yakunin—G. Starovoytova)	1
"Communists—Russian Labor" bloc (V. Tyulkin—A. Kryuchkov—V. Anpilov)	1
"Common Cause" bloc (I. Khakamada—R. Bykov—B. Dzhanibekov)	1
"Trade Unions and Industrialists of Russia—United Labor" bloc (V. Shcherbakov—M. Shmakov—A. Volskiy)	1
"Union of Patriots" bloc (A. Sterligov—V. Anegov—A. Tizinba)	1
"Forward, Russia!" movement (B. Fedorov—B. Denisenko—A. Vladislavlev)	2
"Nation" movement (A. Rutskoy—V. Kobelev—K. Dushenko)	2
"Women of Russia" movement (V. Fedulova—Ye. Lakhova—G. Klimantova)	5
"Cedar" movement (A. Panfilov—L. Yakubovich—A. Tarasov)	1
"Russia's Democratic Choice" (Gaydar—S. Kovalev—L. Fedoseyeva-Shukshina)	3
CPRF (G. Zyuganov—F. Goryacheva—A. Tuleyev)	9
Congress of Russian Communities (Yu. Skokov—A. Lebed—S. Glazyev)	2
Leftist-Centrist Bloc (I. Rybkin—Yu. Petrov)	0.4
Liberal Democratic Party (V. Zhirinovskiy—S. Abeltsev—A. Vengerovskiy)	6
National Republican Party (N. Lysenko—N. Pavlov—A. Ovchinnikov)	0
"Russia Is Our Home" (V. Chernomyrdin—N. Mikhalkov—L. Rokhlin)	5
Beer Lovers' Party (K. Kalachev—D. Shestakov—A. Palchevskiy)	1
"People's Union (of Defrauded Depositors)" party (V. Lukyanov—D. Galagan—G. Mironov)	0.4
Workers' Self-Government Party (Sv. Fedorov—A. Porokhovshchikov—A. Kazannik)	4
Russian Unity and Accord Party (S. Shakhray)	1
Economic Freedom Party (K. Borovoy—V. Novodvorskiy—V. Kovalenok)	1
Republican Party (E. Pamfilova—A. Gurov—V. Lysenko)	0.5
Others	0.4

Agrarian Party of Russia (M. Lapshin—A. Zaveryukha—V. Starodubtsev)	3
None of the above/I will not be voting	17
No response	around 20

A higher than average level of support was expressed for the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] by military and law enforcement personnel, pensioners and, in general, men over the age of 55, with less than a secondary education or with a higher education and an average or low income, living in rural communities and voting mainly for communists (37 percent of the potential voters) and Zhirinovskiy's party in earlier elections.

The level of support for Yavlinskiy's bloc was slightly higher than the average among managers, specialists and, in general, men between the ages of 25 and 55, with a complete or partial higher education and a high income, living in the capitals and other big cities and voting for the party tickets of the same bloc (20 percent of the voters) and "Russia's Choice."

The level of support for Zhirinovskiy's party was higher than the average among independent businessmen, the unemployed, soldiers, the personnel of law enforcement agencies, blue-collar workers and, in general, men (twice as likely as women to support this party) between the ages of 25 and 40, with a secondary education or less, with a low income, living in cities and voting almost exclusively for the same party (55 percent) in the last election.

"Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] had a relatively high number of supporters among military and law enforcement personnel, specialists, managerial and administrative personnel and, in general, men between the ages of 25 and 40 and over the age of 55, with a high income, living in cities of all sizes and voting for "Russia's Choice," the Democratic Party, and Zhirinovskiy's party in the last election.

The "Women of Russia" political movement won more support than the average among white-collar workers, managerial and administrative personnel and, in general, women (four times as likely as men to support this movement) between the ages of 25 and 40, with a secondary education, living in the capitals and small cities and voting for this movement (28 percent) and for "Russia's Choice" in the last election.

The Workers' Self-Government Party won the most support among managerial and administrative personnel and, in general, people between the ages of 40 and 55, with a higher education and a relatively high income, living in cities and voting for "Russia's Choice" and the CPRF earlier.

The Agrarian Party of Russia is most likely to be supported by managerial and administrative personnel, the unemployed, pensioners and, in general, people over the age of 40, with less than a secondary education, with a low income, living in rural communities and voting for this party (45 percent) and for Zhirinovskiy's party in the past.

The level of support for "Russia's Democratic Choice" was higher than the average among independent businessmen, university and secondary school students and, in general, men under the age of 40, with a higher education and a high income, living in cities and voting for the party tickets of "Russia's Choice" (29 percent) and of the Democratic Party of Russia and "Women of Russia" in earlier State Duma elections.

The rest of the parties and blocs did not have enough supporters among the respondents for an analysis of their composition, and they have less chance of surmounting the 5-percent barrier.

"Why Do You Plan To Vote For This Party?" (more than one response could be chosen by those who registered in support of party tickets)

I expect this party to maintain at least some stability and order in the country	29
I have confidence in the party leader	25
I expect this party to change the situation in the country radically	21

I expect this party to maintain at least some stability and order in the country	29
I agree with the party's ideals and slogans	15
I have supported this party for a long time	12
I will vote for this party to ruin the chances of other forces that might hurt Russia	9
Other reasons	1
No response	7

The people most likely to believe that their party could maintain order and stability were the respondents who plan to vote for NDR, "Women of Russia," and "Forward, Russia!" Most of those whose explanation for their choice was their confidence in the party leader supported the Congress of Russian Communities, "Forward, Russia!" "YaBLoko," the Workers' Self-Government Party, and "Nation."

The following question was asked to judge the strength of the Russian urban respondents' commitment to their choices.

"How Certain Are You That You Will Vote for This Party in December?" (answered only by those who plan to vote and who chose a specific party)

Responses	July	September
Absolutely certain	31	32
Absolutely certain, barring unforeseen circumstances	38	34
Somewhat certain	24	20
Not certain	5	2
No response	2	12

The CPRF, the Agrarian Party, and Zhirinovskiy's party had the most steadfast supporters. The most ambivalent were the supporters of the Workers' Self-Government Party and "Women of Russia."

"How Would You Rate the Chances of the Party You Plan To Support in the Next Election?" (answered only by those who chose a specific party)

It will win a majority in the Duma	17
It will form one of the largest factions in the Duma	34
It will have trouble getting its candidates into the Duma	17
It has no chance of winning seats in the Duma	4
No response	18

The supporters of Zhirinovskiy, NDR, and the CPRF were most confident about the victory of "their" parties. The most skeptical opinions of their parties' parliamentary prospects were expressed by the supporters of "Power to the People!" and "Nation," almost all of whom said that their parties had almost no chance of winning.

It is important to remember that the results of early polls cannot be seen as an exact prediction of election results. The percentage of votes cast for a party, after all, will be calculated on the basis of the number of people voting, and not the whole population. Besides this, election results can be influenced by many other factors in addition to the intentions of voters.

Interior Ministers' Conference Ends in Yerevan

LD2510210495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1940 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yerevan, 25 Oct — Today the tenth conference of CIS interior ministers ended with the signing of a series of protocols, agreements, and other documents. Representatives from 12 states of the Commonwealth put their signatures to a draft treaty on the procedure for the stationing and interaction of members of CIS law enforcement bodies on the territory of other states of the Commonwealth, and also to a document on amendments and addenda to the 1993 CIS Minsk convention on legal aid and legal relations in civil, domestic, and criminal cases.

"In accordance with the CIS charter, in future we intend to attach to the conference the same status as those of the councils of defense or foreign ministers", Major-General Madalbek Moldashev, the Kyrgyz minister of internal affairs, reported to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. A corresponding decision to this effect was adopted at the Yerevan meeting.

In the opinion of Major-General Saidamir Zuhurov, the Tajik minister of internal affairs, the documents which were worked on and signed in Yerevan will in the future help to significantly improve the operational and procedural activities within the framework of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Criminals are not biding time but moving ahead of the law enforcement bodies, the minister noted. He believes that it is necessary to take action. The Tajik minister categorically disagrees with the opinion that the conference is a prototype for a unified CIS Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is only a question of coordinating work on the major directions of operational activities.

Colonel-General Anatoliy Kulikov, the Russian minister of internal affairs, agrees with this point of view. "It is a coordinating body which we are trying to bring closer to the CIS Council of Heads of State. This status would enable issues to be tackled effectively at a higher level," the Russian minister said.

Today in Yerevan an agreement was signed on cooperation between the Ministries of the Interior of Armenia and Georgia and also on cooperation between the Kyrgyz ministries of the interior and their colleagues from Moldova, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan.

NTV Reports on CIS Peacekeeping Role in Tajikistan

LD2510123195 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Oct 95

[Correspondent Yelena Masyuk video report; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under an agreement with Tajikistan, two years ago CIS member-states Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Russia decided to put collective peacekeeping forces into the Republic of Tajikistan to pacify the situation in the republic. Since then, 75 peacekeepers have been killed there, with the most recent killing occurring on 28 September. The peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan today are represented by the 201st Russian Division, an Uzbek battalion, and one Kyrgyz platoon, plus two Kazakh officers on the command staff.

[Valentin Bobryshev, commander of peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, interviewed in office] "A number of states, in particular Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, have not fully met the conditions of the accord on the collective peacekeeping forces."

This means mainly the financing of the collective peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan. Of the countries party to the accord, only Russia has so far paid up the money for the work of the peacekeeping forces. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan are in arrears.

[Mecheslav Senkevich, Russian Federation ambassador in Tajikistan] "Our position in regards to Tajikistan must proceed from one principle: that Russia must have a serious presence here, and for a long period."

Nevertheless, Russia is trying not to interfere in the internal affairs of Tajikistan. Everyone recalls the September clashes in the town of Kurgan-Tyube, when one Tajik Defense Ministry brigade started to shell another brigade from the same ministry. Russia observed neutrality in this situation. The commander of the first brigade, which won this particular battle, today has his own view on the reasons for the conflict:

[Makhmud Khudayberdiyev, commander, 1st brigade of Tajik Defense Ministry] "We got rather tired of these criminal elements, and we were helping to apprehend the criminals."

An unofficial version of the incident puts the conflict between the 1st and 11th Defense Ministry brigades down to economic considerations. [passage omitted]

If some CIS countries leave the peacekeeping forces, the political situation in Tajikistan could deteriorate very quickly indeed. Not so long ago official Uzbekistan announced that unless the situation in Tajikistan gets back to normal soon, the Uzbek battalion will leave the peacekeeping forces at the end of the year. Many observers see in this Uzbekistan's political goals, first and foremost, noting Uzbekistan's geopolitical domination, historically speaking, of the central Asian region of the republics of the former Soviet Union, and pointing also to a certain personal element in the political struggle between the presidents of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Furthermore, other countries that are not members of the CIS have their own specific interests in Tajikistan:

[Senkevich] "It should not be forgotten that this is today a bridgehead, a gateway which can be opened for destructive ideas in regard to the regions settled by the Muslim population of Russia itself."

The treaty on the collective peacekeeping forces' stay in Tajikistan is extended every six months. The current accord expires at the end of this year.

Heads of Slavic Communist Parties Meet in Minsk

WS2510121795 Minsk BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Andrey Malakhowski: "Communists Are in an Optimistic Mood"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leaders of communist parties of three East European states — Party of Belarusian Communists head Serhey Kalyakin; Party of Russian Communists head Gennadiy Zyuganov; and Petro Symonenko, head of Ukrainian Supreme Council faction of communists — held a news conference in the Belarusian National Press Center on 20 October.

According to Gennadiy Zyuganov, Russian communists look to the future with optimism. The party places great hopes on upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections. If communists win these elections, it is envisaged that they will implement profound changes in foreign policy, particularly with respect to CIS states. In Gennadiy Zyuganov's opinion, only the representatives of transnational corporations, striving to win markets of the former USSR, profit from the USSR's breakup.

The mood of the Communist Party of Ukraine is less optimistic. Petro Symonenko expressed his concern about the orientation of the Ukrainian Government toward NATO, the abolishment of social guarantees, and the course of market reform.

Serhey Kalyakin refuted the rumors about a potential split of the Party of Belarusian Communists into orthodox and moderate factions. [He claims] there are now no serious conflicts inside the party. In his words, rumors about the party's potential split are disseminated by opponents.

Belarusian communists are ready to cooperate with the president, but they regard the presidency as alien to Slavic mentality. The party's strategic line in the legislature is consistent work towards abolishing the institution of the presidency. Belarusian communists, however, intend to raise this issue only in case the Constitution is systematically violated by the president.

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LD2610074795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0704 GMT 26 Oct 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 26 (Itar-Tass) — IZVESTIYA on the seizure of "Ingushetia" airport near Sleptsovskaya village on October 24 by helicopter-borne Russian paratroopers.

The assault is known to have been prompted by information that the airport was allegedly seized by Chechen militants. However, there turned out to be no militants there but innocent people were killed by bullets fired by the Russian commandos.

An investigation has been launched. However, one cannot hope for its impartiality, the newspaper points out. Already now, the Main Military Prosecutor's Office argues that the helicopters that fired on the airport could be of any affiliation. Correspondents believe that those actions were brought about by the hysterical state of key agencies in the Caucasus that always expect acts of terrorism from Dudayev militants and therefore overreact to the slightest disquieting reports. But should they act in the manner of terrorists? the newspaper asks.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the tasks of Russia's new Prosecutor-General Yuriy Skuratov.

In an interview with the newspaper, Skuratov said his credo is reliance on professionals. He said the first priority to him is to establish full supervision over interior agencies and other ones that engage in field investigation operations. It is essential to raise the effectiveness of the entire law enforcement system to a higher stage, he said.

And finally Skuratov sees it an urgent task to shift the emphasis to the ensurance of the rights of the individual and citizen. He pointed out that he does not intend to resort to purges in his agency and believes that, on the contrary rather, it is necessary to consolidate the resources of the Office of the Prosecutor-General.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on pensions, the forthcoming elections and President Yeltsin.

The newspaper carries an article headlined "Boris Yeltsin intends to continue to work for some more time...." Referring to a document that has come into the possession of the editorial office, the newspaper writes that "it is perfectly clear to all Kremlin analysts: Boris Yeltsin will contend for a second Presidential term."

The newspaper is of the opinion that the document, which is titled "The provision of pensions and the forthcoming elections" is addressed to Chief of the Presidential Staff Sergey Filatov, not to the Cabinet of Ministers, and indicates that the purpose of the document is to boost Yeltsin's rating in the run-up to the Presidential elections and ensure pensioners' votes for him.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on Russian Defence Minister's visit to the United States.

The newspaper notes that the Presidents of Russia and the U.S. left it for the Defence Chiefs to decide on specific details of Russia's participation in a settlement of the Bosnia conflict.

Mentioning difficulties which the Russian Minister and his American counterpart will have to encounter when discussing the details, the newspaper gives the opinion of the New York Times which believes that Russia should be represented in any peacekeeping mission, otherwise a multi-national force would be directed against the Bosnia Serbs and their allies in Belgrade.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on prospects for the development of the situation in Chechnya and the approaching winter.

The newspaper points out that a group of generals have sent a report to President Boris Yeltsin, proposing two ways out of the situation. The first one is to launch an offensive and destroy unlawful armed formations in Chechnya before mid-November and the other way is to withdraw troops from the republic and organise fortified areas along its borders.

Everything, however, has remained as it was, and the newspaper sees one main result of that: the right of a first strike has devolved on Chechen forces while the army of Russia is being gunned down little by little. Wintering in tents or dugouts is not very hopeful.

IZVESTIYA on the investigation of the disappearance of a helicopter with a cargo of gold a year ago.

It is clear already now that although the investigation has just been startedm the Mi-2 helicoptger, which disappeared in Amur region exactly one year ago with people and cargo of gold on board, and was discovered in the taiga by hunters on October 24, had crashed due to a heavy overloading.

The only consolation that the relatives of the pilots and passengers of the helicopter can derive is the thought that no one kidnapped the people on board, and the crash victims had no intention to steal 60 kilogrammes of the precious metal.

Chernomyrdin: 'No Change' in Stance on NATO

BR2510151895 Rome IL MESSAGGERO in Italian 25 Oct 95 p 9

[Interview with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin by Roberto Livi in Dubna on 23 October: "Chernomyrdin: I Will Beat the Communists" — first two paragraphs are IL MESSAGGERO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Communists? They will not get in. Russia? It will not go back to the past. You can take Viktor Chernomyrdin's word for it. The head of the Russian Government and leader of the Russia Is Our Home political group looked highly determined to win the election battle on Monday [23 October], during his visit to the Nuclear Research Institute in Dubna, a town a little over 100 km from Moscow where the USSR's first engaged in nuclear physics research in the fifties. Chernomyrdin signed a memorandum pledging government support for the institute, where scientists from various countries — Italy included — are carrying out atomic physics resarch.

But Monday was also an important day for Russia's political future. In practice, it marked the beginning of the campaign for the general election scheduled for 17 December. On Sunday, fully 43 parties and political groups presented the signatures of the 200,000 supporters required to qualify them to take part in the election. Out in front, once again, was the Communist Party, which looks like it is going to win a relative majority in the future Duma. If the Communists win — I asked Prime Minister Chernomyrdin — are you convinced that Russia will change political tack?

[Chernomyrdin] Do not worry. Russia will not change its political course.

[Livi] So you are sure that the Communists will not win the general election in December?

[Chernomyrdin] Yes, I am sure that they will not win, not even if they join forces with the nationalist groups.

[Livi] Opinion polls put them well in the lead, with almost 20 percent of voting intentions, nearly double the forecast for your party, Russia Is Our Home.

[Chernomyrdin] We are just at the beginning of the election campaign. You should not attach too much importance to opinion polls like those.

[Livi] Why are you so sure?

[Chernomyrdin] Even this meeting with the scientists at Dubna shows how much Russia wants stability. In order to achieve it, a suitable political climate has to be created. We, the president, and the government, are creating this climate. The worst years are over now; there will be stability — both political and economic stability.

[Livi] What part of Russia does your party represent?

[Chernomyrdin] It represents a country that will survive, despite the difficulties that we have to face. It is no easy task, and we make no secret of it. We intend to overcome those difficulties on our own, under our own steam. This does not mean that we will turn down offers of help. Indeed we open our country's doors to those who respect us, including Italy, with which we enjoy excellent economic cooperation relations. We intend to present a stable, strong Russia to Europe, a country that wants to live in harmony with all its neighbors, that intends to integrate with the European Community.

[Livi] But there are differences on foreign policy, on the expansion of NATO to take in the East European countries, for instance.

[Chernomyrdin] Russia is firmly opposed to any expansion of NATO, it is against having NATO on its borders. There will be no change in our stance.

Roundtable Views NATO Eastward Expansion

LD2510134395 Moscow NTV in Russian 2100 GMT 24 Oct 95

[Report by Aleksandr Shashkov from the "Today at Midnight" program — passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Many politicians both in the West and Russia consider the subject of NATO expansion to be the most important.

[Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Duma Committee for International Affairs] "This is really the central problem. The West must make the main choice. It must choose, above all the NATO countries must choose, whether they want common European security, as De Gaulle said from the Atlantic to the Urals, or the security of Western and Eastern Europe, but not of the former Soviet area, the area between Ukraine, Belarus, and the Urals. We are ready for active cooperation in the first instance. In the second instance we must take care of ourselves in the way we think necessary. If we are not consulted, we must decide our affairs ourselves. I personally support the first instance, but if the first instance falls away we are left with nothing but the second."

[Shashkov] The visit to Russia — which has just finished — by a representative delegation from Brussels, including representatives of the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland is very interesting in this respect. The main aim of the visit is to prove that NATO's expansion eastward is not dangerous to Russia.

Russia's statements that we are acting unilaterally and trying to annex everything around us is without foundation, said (Chris Donnelly), the NATO secretary general's adviser on especially important matters. According to a document published in Brussels on expansion of the North Atlantic alliance, if NATO is proposing to other European countries that they become allies, then it is being done purely with the aim of security and stability in the whole Euro-Atlantic region.

At a roundtable, representatives of NATO and Russia, like fighters, demonstrated two opposing, mutually exclusive points of view.

[Colonel General Igor Rodionov, director of the Russian Federation General Staff Academy] "With what aim does the NATO military-political organization continue to exist now, in a unilateral order and with what aim is it expanding eastward?"

[Shashkov] In this regard the clearly thought-out positions of the Czech Republic and Hungary must puzzle Russian politicians. The readiness of these former Warsaw treaty countries to base NATO nuclear warheads on their territory raises the wholly legitimate question in politicians' minds: Who are these rockets being aimed against if not against Russia?

[Jaromir Novotny, head of the Czech Defense Ministry's Department for International Relations] "We have a consensus. It is not only the government, the coalition government, but the opposition party in parliament too, who agree to our membership in NATO. Why NATO? NATO is an organization that includes all members of the G-7, the richest countries. It is an organization that covers the territory of prosperity and democracy in the world. We want to be members of this prosperity and democracy club, and it is in our interests too that our neighbors should also be members of this club. Why is Russia against and we in favor? Because Russia will not be stable for the next 10-15 years, it will be — I do not know it in Russian — a source of nonstability [preceding four words in English]. It is in our interests to be in the harbor, as it were, of the group of stable democratic countries."

Akashi Denies Concealing Muslim-Croat Offensive

LD2510201395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1806 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — The envoy of the U.N. secretary general and head of the peacekeeping operation in the former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi has denied the claims of some media reports about an agreement between the command of UN Peace-Keeping Forces, NATO, Moslem and Croatian troops to conceal their continuing offensive in north-west Bosnia.

This was reported by a high-ranking Russian embassy official in Zagreb to INTERFAX Wednesday.

He said that at a meeting at the embassy Akashi also described as groundless reports about a Moslem-Croatian offensive in Bosnia.

The envoy stressed that the reports are refuted by U.N. military observers stationed between Banja Luka and the Sana bridge.

According to the diplomat, Akashi admitted that both sides to the Bosnian conflict do break the cease-fire, but there is no reason to speak of any offensive and even less so of concerted actions with NATO.

Akashi said such allegations added fuel to the fire and endangered "the fragile truce in Bosnia."

Akashi said he believed that such allegations were aimed at misleading the public opinion in the countries which are involved in the settlement of the Bosnian crisis.

Academic: Russia Cannot Afford Bosnian Peace Force

LD2510222095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1806 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — Doctor Vladimir Volkov of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Slav and Balkan Studies says Russia can ill afford the cost of sending a large peace contingent to Bosnia as part of the multinational force intended to implement the regional peace agreement there. "It will be a very costly operation for Moscow," he told INTERFAX on Wednesday.

Volkov thinks Moscow could have raised the question of UN spending on the upkeep of Russian troops in the region as an option.

At the same time, he is not sure Russia should opt out of the operation if it fails to raise money on the side.

"I think we will have to reduce our presence to as little as makes sense in this case", Volkov said.

He does not believe Russia should stay out of any Bosnian settlement either on moral or political grounds. "Clearly, any foreign policy must be thrifty. We must try and strike a certain balance between our moral duties and financial possibilities", Volkov said.

Volkov said Russia and NATO could hardly be compared to each other.

"NATO is a military bloc pursuing its goals rather than a peacemaking organization," he said.

"The coming operation will signify for NATO the continuation of the policy aimed at replacing the U.N., increasing its influence in the Balkans and seizing new military bases there," Volkov said.

"The deployment of NATO's troops will in fact be more similar to an occupation which will make a part of the Balkan countries the bloc's protectorates," he said.

"Contrary to NATO, Russia always stuck to the principle of strict impartiality and equal responsibility of all parties for their actions and defended the rights of the Balkan peoples," Volkov said.

Volkov said he was categorically against Russia's participation in the multi-national forces in Bosnia under NATO's command. "Russia will have to somewhat coordinate its actions with NATO but it will never place Russian troops under the bloc's command," he said.

"The recent actions of the alliance in the Balkans prove that it would never be able to become a peacemaking tool in Europe," Volkov said.

"By bombing the Bosnian Serbs, NATO has clearly displayed that it's one-sided and biased," he said. Volkov repeated that the major part of ethnic cleansing, murders, thefts and violence launched by the Croatians and the Moslems had been directed against the Serbian population. He said the NATO leadership should share the responsibility of the Croatians and the Moslems for these actions.

"Russia should act within the scope of universal European organizations," Volkov said.

Volkov said he was bewildered with the OSCE being put aside from the settlement of the Balkan crisis.

He also said he regretted that Russian diplomacy declined to comment its further plans towards settlement of the crisis in the Balkans.

"There is very little information about what the parties intend to do there. Everything is being decided somewhere without us. This is one of the most serious errors committed by Russian diplomacy," Volkov said.

Commentary on U.S. Summit; Russia's Role in Bosnia

Moscow Would 'Benefit' From U.S. Failure

MK2610122195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Pavel Felgengauer: "Presidents the Peacemakers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This week's Russian-American summit appeared to be becoming civilized as never before. It was more reminiscent of a meeting between the U.S. President and his French counterpart or the Japanese prime minister, instead of being a tense showdown between the leaders of two opposing nuclear powers with liaison officers at their backs with special nuclear cases, ready for an immediate massed strike in case of any mischief. Nowadays the presidents smile amiably in public and at the negotiating table, even if they have just been kicking each other under the table when no one could see them (Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to Russia, who was present at the Hyde Park meeting, confirmed yesterday that "Yeltsin did not change his stance during the talks in comparison with his UN speech." But it is not so terrible that they left something unresolved. There is no rush — it can easily be put off. No one is going to fight, after all).

Instead the presidents agreed to seek the ratification of START II, which was signed in early-January 1993, although it is quite obvious that the current Duma, let alone the next one, will never ratify it. It was confirmed once again that the West can make concessions to Russia by adjusting flank quotas under the CFE Treaty (in Pickering's words, "major steps forward were taken, it is planned to agree on a joint stance by 17 November, but not all problems have been resolved yet"). On top of that, Yeltsin announced that "an agreement was reached on the participation of Russian troops" in the Bosnian peacekeeping operation.

Yet it has been known for several weeks that the Russian leadership wants to send extra troops to Bosnia, while the United States and other Western countries would be extremely glad to see Russian battalions there. Moreover, it seems that the question of command structure is of secondary importance ("not presidential business"). For both politicians and servicemen in the West and in Moscow are perfectly aware of the fact that under any option for dividing or sharing command functions Russian officers and generals in Bosnia will not carry out any important orders from any multinational command until they receive Moscow's consent via satellite communications.

What is crucially important for the Russian ruling elite is not the fact that two or three Russian battalions would be technically subordinate to NATO but that — in the event of success in Bosnia — a strengthened and increasingly self-confident NATO would be very much inclined to use the "Bosnian" model to resolve conflicts in other "hot spots," including those in the CIS space. For this reason many people think that Russia stands to benefit most from a NATO (and American) failure in Bosnia, as was the case in Somalia or Lebanon, whence multinational forces brought in with much fanfare fled in disgrace, having failed properly to achieve any of the objectives assigned to them.

It is not Russia's business to stand in NATO's way if the latter is going to plunge headlong into a hornet's nest in the Balkans. But the Moscow authorities, of course, cannot publicly admit that. Unlike the USSR, Russia is too weak to risk sending a global challenge to the United States. President Yeltsin undoubtedly has this in mind when he says in public that "losing this partnership is impermissible."

What is left for Russia is just to count on the southern Slavs (Serbs, Croats, and Muslims) in the hope that they, like the Somalis before them, will derail Richard Holbrooke's peace plan. It is they whom the Clinton Administration should either convince or force to live in peace on the land that each party sees as fully and exclusively its own. Not only will the Americans have to help the good guys and punish the bad ones but, most important, they will have to learn to distinguish between them. Neither in Vietnam, nor in Lebanon, Somalia, Afghanistan, Algeria, or Chechnya could the great powers cope with this task.

Summit Long on Rhetoric, Short on Results

MM2510205795 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Oct 95 pp 1,3

[Article by Vladimir Shelkov: "No Thunder and Lightning"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — Having completed the lavish Sunday ceremonies and formal speeches at the headquarters of the United Nations on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, B. Yeltsin and B. Clinton set off Monday morning for the small town of Hyde Park 140 kilometers from New York. Here, in the mansion of the same name where U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born, grew up, and loved to return all his life, the two presidents held their summit meeting.

It is being said that it is no accident that Hyde Park was chosen as the venue for this, the ninth meeting between the heads of state since Clinton took office. The aura of a great historical figures and the spirit of cooperation between partners in the anti-Hitler coalition which reign in this place were intended to promote mutual understanding and progress in resolving the acute international problems which are again knocking at the door. These include the Bosnia crisis, NATO's plans to expand to the east, the need to make progress on questions relating to the reduction of forces and arms in Central Europe, the ending of nuclear weapons tests....

All these subjects were examined during the talks, albeit in differing levels of detail. As expected, discussion of the Bosnia crisis occupied the lion's share of the time. It is well known that in the event of the warring sides signing a peace agreement NATO plans to send a 60,000-strong contingent to Bosnia to monitor compliance with the demands of the eventual document. And one-third of this powerful grouping — to which Britain and France will also be contributing troops — is supposed to come from the United States. Russia also intends to send its servicemen. But there is just one hitch.

Washington and NATO are refusing pointblank to subordinate their troops to UN command, although this would be logical for peacemaking forces. Most probably the upcoming operation will be a purely NATO affair. But what about Russia? Moscow believes that it is inappropriate for anyone to engage in such a large-scale troop redeployment, and in an explosive area like Bosnia, moreover, in circumvention of the United Nations.

Judging by the participants' statements at the end of the meeting, the Hyde Park talks between B. Yeltsin and B. Clinton did not yield any particular results in this respect, although the Russian Federation president gently ticked off journalists who had predicted they would be a complete failure. The U.S. president was brief: "We achieved some progress." B. Yeltsin said that the sides agreed on the participation of Russian armed forces in Bosnia operations but the military will have to work out what specifically all this will look like.

It is hard to disagree with the Baltimore SUN, which called this "a good example of a traditional shuffle designed to avoid admitting that there was deadlock between the actual presidents."

Talks between Defense Secretary W. Perry and Defense Minister P. Grachev are scheduled to start in Washington this Friday. It is interesting that the Pentagon boss, speaking on the eve of the Hyde Park meeting and possibly not knowing of Grachev's future arrival, offered a kind of epigraph for the coming talks with him: "NATO wants Russia to participate, but under effective NATO military command, while the Russians are seeking an independent command." It is therefore hard to predict what kind of compromise formula the two ministers could now find to reconcile such mutually exclusive approaches.

Observers were predicting that an acute political battle between "friend Bill" and "friend Boris" over the problem of the admission of East European countries to NATO was bound to flare up at Hyde Park. Only the day before B. Yeltsin had thundered from the UN General Assembly rostrum against such plans, which threaten to disrupt stability and undermine security in Europe. But the storm was followed by a calm very much in harmony with the peaceful autumn landscape and the overall ambiance of the Roosevelt mansion. As American officials admitted, this subject was only "slightly touched on" during the talks. Those U.S. Administration spokesmen who listened calmly to the Russian leader's tough-talking jubilee speech to the United Nations and interpreted its tone as tailored to domestic political realities in Russia, were evidently right.

Nevertheless the two leaders did not present themselves to journalists completely empty-handed. They announced that they intend to work on a comprehensive ban on all — even the smallest — nuclear tests. This announcement will probably not be to the liking of some Pentagon officials, who are trying to persuade the administration to make provision in the treaty for a loophole to continue small-scale nuclear explosions. The presidents also reported progress in their discussion of disputed questions linked with the reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe. B. Yeltsin and B. Clinton urged both countries' legislators to ratify the START II treaty. Finally, humiliating though it might be for Russia, which still has memories of great-power glory, agreement was reached at Hyde Park on ensuring the safety of Russian nuclear weapons, which are becoming an object of routine theft, which could lead to dangerous consequences. In this connection the presidents demanded the speediest fulfillment of the recommendations formulated by the Chernomyrdin-Gore commission.

Nevertheless it is hard to escape the feeling that this summit was marked by the rhetoric of its statements. It did not yield any weighty, tangible results.

One of the most interesting events occurred right at the end of the meeting. As is traditional on such occasions, its participants had prepared small gifts for each other. As a souvenir. The Russian president gave his American counterpart two hockey shirts bearing the logo of the Moscow Penguins. One had "Clinton" on the front. The other had "Yeltsin." And on the back, like any hockey shirt, they had numbers. Each shirt had an identical big "96." "We both have a difficult trial — elections — ahead of us," the Russian president seemed to be saying. In my view he has never yet made it so unequivocally clear that he will participate in next year's presidential elections....

Support Role Seen for Russian Troops

MM2610091595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Ilya Baranikas: "This Is a Job for Ministers, Not Presidents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] New York — Assessing the results of his talks with Boris Yeltsin, Bill Clinton said: "We devoted most of our discussions to the Bosnia question and agreed to work together for peace. We agreed that Russia's participation is important...." The U.S. President reported that the specific details of that participation would be elaborated over the next few days by the U.S. and Russian defense ministers. This was also stated by President Boris Yeltsin.

On the eve of Pavel Grachev's arrival in America the U.S. mass media noted that the U.S. and Russian presidents had left all the details to the military leaders — and, as the English saying has it, "the devil is in the details." The ministers will probably have to work out a lot of difficult details regarding the "joint separate" operation in Bosnia, but provided there is good will (and there is on both sides) we can count on success. "Russia," THE NEW YORK TIMES pointed out in this connection, "should be represented on any peacekeeping mission, otherwise the multinational forces will be aimed against the Bosnian Serbs and their allies in Belgrade. Without cooperation from the Serbs there can be no peace in Bosnia. But Russia should not take part in a military operation on the same footing as the United States, Britain, France, and the other countries. The value of Russia's role could be maintained even without Russian troop participation in the combat operations which might be required to maintain the peace — the Russians could act as support forces, and then the integrity of NATO command would be maintained."

Cooperation between Russian and NATO forces is possible — that is already being demonstrated by the Russo-U.S. "Peacekeeper '95" exercises that are beginning at Fort Riley, Kansas. Servicemen from the Russian Army's 27th Guards Motorized Rifle Division have already arrived there. The aim of the maneuvers is to develop cooperation in carrying out peacekeeping operations, and to create an atmosphere of confidence and cooperation between the two countries' servicemen. The experience gained from the exercises will undoubtedly be useful for the officers and men of both armies in Bosnia.

Balkans Seen Threatening Russian 'Greatness'

MM2510140995 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Oct 95 pp 1, 7

[Article by Aleksandr Khokhlov: "Hear the Order: 'Form Up With NATO!' The Russian Soldier Cannot Defend Peace in the Balkans With Holes in His Boots"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia now has its foot poised above yet another precipice — it has seen plenty of them in the 20th century.

The words have been spoken — by, among others, President Boris Yeltsin, speaking as the 13th (so how can you not believe in an evil fate, after that) head of state from the platform of the jubilee UN session, and later at the meeting with Bill Clinton at Hyde Park. The deeds are being done — the processes of manning, assembling, and arming an expeditionary corps are nearing completion among Russia's troops, out of sight of the country and the world.

We are off to the Balkans again. Only this time not in order to liberate our Serb brothers from the Ottoman yoke or to cleanse Europe of fascism, but to make peace, alongside NATO member states.

NATO wants us to pacify the Serbs, Muslims, and Croats under the command of its own — NATO's — military commanders. Russia is stalling — now requesting, now demanding to be allowed to go to the Balkans not under NATO, but together with it. At Hyde Park on Monday Yeltsin gave Clinton a promise that Russian troops will participate in the operation in Bosnia, but the key question — the command — remained unresolved.

NATO does not want a "separate" command. The United States and its allies in the North Atlantic Alliance have spent more than a year working out a plan for the implementation of the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia. All the roles are already allocated. Between 60,000 and 70,000 soldiers from NATO countries will enter the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina on five salients; 20-25,000 of them will represent the might of the U.S. Army in Europe. In addition, a mass of armed men will support this unprecedented military operation outside Bosnia — in Croatia, Italy, and other European countries.

The NATO troops' mission includes the creation of a 19-km corridor of separation between the conflicting parties (on the one hand the Bosnian Serbs, and on the other the Bosnian Croats and Muslims, who have suddenly become friends). For a year, NATO will also monitor the fulfillment of a peace agreement on Bosnia. Which, incidentally, still has to be concluded. But the monitoring of its implementation is already planned. Three divisions will be assigned for this purpose — from the United States, Britain, and France — plus brigades from other countries belonging to the North Atlantic bloc. It is unlikely that this plan will change substantially after the meeting of the Russian and U.S. defense ministers that is expected this week.

At the meeting of NATO defense ministers which was held at the beginning of October in the American small town of Williamsburg, it was stated clearly that the peacekeeping forces will be under NATO's sole command. So no military role is assigned to the United Nations. Nor to Russia.

But they still want troops from Russia to go to the Balkans. And the troops are already preparing: Back in the summer, without much publicity, the setting up of a Russian peacekeeping formation began. It will be made up of four or five reinforced battalions of airborne troops and special subunits (artillery, communications, engineering, etc). Apparently Russia will (according to various estimates) put between 3,000 and 7,000 servicemen at NATO's service.

What is the cause of the "Balkan longing" felt by the "boys" from the Russian political establishment? What are we looking for in that distant land?

The Balkan card is currently being played by every remotely significant political movement in the country: from the democrats to the embezzlers, from the patriots to the idiots. At the upcoming Duma elections, and still more the presidential elections, solidarity with the civilized world or with our Serb brothers could win or lose many votes. That is why at the moment there is no sign of any "stirrings" over the upcoming dispatch of Russian troops to former Yugoslavia. Apparently no politician has yet made up his mind what line to take on this. If we don't go to the Balkans, what about the great-power prestige that every single one of the candidates for deputy and president is so concerned about now? If we do go, we will be keeping up with our new probable friends, and surely we will be some help to the Orthodox believers too.

Like hell! The latest Balkan campaign, unlike its victorious predecessors, means Russia risking the loss of that very greatness. Maybe forever.

A few figures. Expenditure by the Defense Ministry alone on the operation in Chechnya has exceeded 2 trillion rubles. Approximately as much again has been spent by the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], FAPSI [Federal Government Communications and Information

Agency], and the border guards put together. The government does not intend to reimburse this expenditure. The defense minister recently tried to get the money from the finance minister. But Chernomyrdin shut Grachev up rudely: We don't intend to wage war in Chechnya, he said.

At the moment officers' pay is two to three months late everywhere, there is nothing to feed the soldiers on, and the debts to military power and fuel suppliers have reached astronomical sums. How are they supposed to pay for the dispatch of a whole division to distant lands, across three borders, in hundreds of train-loads? A division which, moreover, will have to be fed, watered, clothed, and shod for a year, with all these material resources also having to be sent across three borders.

Our Army and our state could crack up economically as a result of sending this one division. Even now it is clear that the military in the Balkans are not going to receive more than two salaries. There's no money.... Let's admit honestly that we're weak now, and forget about your Indian Oceans. I personally would be ashamed to see on CNN television in six months or so some black guy from the French Foreign Legion holding out a can of stew to one of our airborne troops: "Here you are, Russkiy, eat that"....

Even worse than the economic ills are the political ills that the sending of troops to the Balkans threatens for Russia. Why are we going there? To help NATO? But it has plenty of forces as it is. The stallions in battle dress are tired of waiting, they are well fed and raring to go. So let them try their strength. In their countries, unlike ours, after the first soldiers' bodies come back, the press and public will raise such an outcry that maybe instead of "separation corridors" they will soon have to look for a "corridor" for departure.

But Russia is not a NATO member. Why should we lose our boys in other people's interests? In the last century Russian bones covered the whole of Europe. At that time NATO was called the Holy Alliance (Russian belonged to it), and because of its fulfillment of that alliance's policy, which was alien to our own interests, the Russian Empire was dubbed the "gendarme of Europe."

Nor should we be seduced by the idea that Russia will be able to help its coreligionists the Serbs. Our troops will be stationed on territory controlled by the Bosnian Serbs, and will be "protected" by NATO aviation. We all know who gets bombed by NATO. Nobody is going to ask our consent for this "protection." Are the Bosnian Serbs going to love us for it?

The Serbs' favorite slogan is the four "S's": "Serbia Shall Save Serbia." The army of the new Yugoslavia, the third strongest in Europe, is not coming to the assistance of their blood brothers, President Milosevic is openly "selling" his brothers the Bosnian Serbs in exchange for the lifting of sanctions by the international community, so why should Russia have a "special mission" in the Balkans? Why should Bosnian Slavs who are Catholics or Muslims not arouse the same feelings of kinship in us as Orthodox Slavs? National interests should prevail in Russia's foreign policy, not the ambitions of the ruling clique.

And another thing. We are preparing to dispatch our armed men and combat hardware to a theater of hostilities where superior forces will be present from other countries that belong to a bloc that is — to put it mildly — not entirely "fraternal" toward us, and that is trying to expand as far as our own Pskov and Smolensk. Who knows what parties will win our next elections (or theirs for that matter)? Who will be our next president? In fact, even the present one has an unpredictable character. What other element will be lacking in the Balkans for the start of World War III?

The seething Balkan cauldron threatens upheavals for Russia that we cannot guess at today. Everything there is unclear, uncertain, dreadful. The Bosnian Serbs are drained of blood, but not broken; they are prepared to fight and to die. The Croats and Muslims are no less resolute. They are still together at the talks, but several times already they have come to blows over sharing out the lands won from the Serbs — there are the first few hundred bodies already.

Instead of trying to storm into the Balkans in boots with holes in, Russia should try to convene the UN Security Council, and there demand (Russia could do this) that the principles of peacekeeping under UN auspices remain inviolate. Our country would save face and continue the political line that it has been pursuing, albeit with hitches and vacillations. It would still be possible to raise at the Security Council the question of the payment of debts to the United Nations. Incidentally, the biggest arrears to the United Nations are owed by the United States, at whose prompting NATO is now quietly gobbling up the [UN] birthday boy....

But no. Yeltsin's restrained and severe speech at the United Nations mentioned only a reluctance for our troops in the Balkans to be commanded by NATO generals. So it has been decided: Russian airborne forces, the best in the world, are to lay down their lives in Bosnia's "Tomahawk"-ravaged mountains. So what if they let our general be a senior assistant to the junior clerk at the headquarters of the NATO "peacekeepers" in former Yugoslavia, so what if he expresses his "dissenting" opinion — then what?

Let's hope the game is worth the candle....

Grachev Leaves for Visit to United States

LD2510203995 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, left by air for the United States, to meet his American counterpart, William Perry.

Our correspondent, Marina Chernukha, has learned from sources in the Ministry of Defense that the minister is planning to discuss issues relating to the practical implementation of the START-II treaty, the settlement of the Bosnian crisis, and the possibility that the NATO bloc might expand.

Iran Denies Training Chechens; Yeltsin 'Misinformed'

LD2510195795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1806 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — Iranian Ambassador in Russia Mehdi Safari addressing the Russian foreign ministry has expressed Tehran's surprise and discontent over President Boris Yeltsin's recent statement saying Chechen militants were undergoing training in Iran, according to an Iranian embassy report.

The embassy said Yeltsin must have been misinformed.

It restated Iran's commitment to respect Russia's territorial integrity considering Chechnya to be Moscow's internal affair and calling for a peaceful solution to the problem.

Earlier, the Palestinian embassy to Moscow has denied Yeltsin's statement of training Chechen rebels in Palestine.

Atomic Ministry To Train Iran Nuclear Specialists

LD2510181695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1804 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Atomic Energy Ministry intends to prepare Iranian nuclear specialists in Russia, Russian Deputy Atomic Energy Minister Yevgeniy Reshetnikov told INTERFAX today.

Reshetnikov said Russia would prepare specialists for the nuclear electric power station in Bushehr, which is being constructed with the assistance of the Russian Atomic Power Energy.

Russia and Iran in January 1995 signed the contract for completing the construction of the Bushehr nuclear electric power station. The contract's value is estimated at about $800 million. Russia will deliver and install in Iran a light-water reactor of the VVER-1000 type.

A delegation of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry will go to Iran on October 26 and will submit to Iran a feasibility study of the German equipment on the construction site and its capabilities. Several problems regarding the construction operation will also be discussed, Reshetnikov said.

Implementation of the contract for constructing the nuclear plant in Bushehr is expected to begin this November.

Russia and Iran are cooperating on construction of the nuclear power station in full compliance with Russia's international obligations regarding nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, Reshetnikov said. The preparation of Iranian specialists in Russia is needed for ensuring the safe functioning of the nuclear power station in Bushehr. Provisions regarding the construction of a centrifuge plant and a uranium mine have been withdrawn from the plans for cooperation between Russia and Iran.

Iranian specialists are likely to be prepared in the educational center of the Novovoronezh nuclear power station (in 42 kilometers away from Voronezh).

Ministry Issues Statement on Georgian-Abkhaz Talks

LD2510222395 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement today, which says in particular:

On the initiative of Russian representatives, who are performing the functions of mediator in the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, a meeting was held between representatives of the conflicting parties on 24 October. The Russian representatives put forward a proposal to resume conflict settlement talks on the basis of documents which had been agreed during previous rounds of talks.

The Georgian side stated its readiness to resume talks by agreeing with the Russian mediators' proposal. However, despite the fact that the holding of talks had been agreed in advance, the representatives of the Abkhaz side said that they had no authorization and refused to engage in talks. They explained their refusal by saying that the Russian border guards, who, in accordance with existing international accords, are protecting Georgia's external borders, had closed international freight traffic to Sukhumi seaport.

The statement also says that consultations between the Russian mediators and representatives of the conflicting parties on how to overcome the current situation will be held in the next few days.

Georgia Outraged by Abkhaz Withdrawal

LD2510211395 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Georgian 0900 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Georgian Embassy in Moscow issued a statement expressing outrage over the latest demarche by the Abkhaz side, as a result of which the resumption of talks on the peaceful settlement of the Abkhaz conflict has again been postponed. The statement says that obstacles which the Abkhaz side is putting up in the way of the negotiating process are evidence not only of its total disregard for the other parties to the talks but also that it is not concerned about the existing problems and is indifferent to the plight of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Base Treaty With Tbilisi Criticized

MK2610063995 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Petr Konstantinov: "Concern at State Duma. Russian-Georgian Treaty on Military Bases Does Not Take Abkhazia's Interests Into Account"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma Committee on CIS Affairs, whom NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA asked to comment on the treaty on military bases between the governments of the Russian Federation and Georgia, said that he knew about these documents through hearsay. Mr. Zatulin complained that this was a widespread practice on the part of our Foreign Ministry and government. For this reason, he expressed his view on the "philosophy" of the matter, not the legitimacy of the document itself. Konstantin Zatulin said that he was "in principle in favor of retaining our influence in the former USSR republics, including military influence, but on condition that security would be guaranteed to all servicemen and their families.

"In this particular case, however, the CIS committee chairman has doubts related, first, to the fact that he is opposed in principle to supplying weapons to Transcaucasia, particularly to Georgia, a country embroiled in an ethnic conflict with a part of its territory, with peoples — particularly in Abkhazia and South Ossetia — that live on the territory of the former Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic.

"I am well aware of the fact that while treaties are being signed a quiet transfer of military hardware and weapons to the Georgian side is in full swing," Mr. Zatulin said. He also said that he had information according to which 12 Mi-8 helicopters and 18 state-of-the-art T-80 tanks, to say nothing of components for Su-27 fighter bombers, which now number 80 aircraft, had already been turned over to the Georgian side. In the State Duma deputy's view, the agreement on military bases is designed to give Georgia Russian military assistance at a crucial period in the normalization of relations between Georgia and Abkhazia. As a matter of fact, neither the Russian parliament nor the government has given its explicit consent to the move.

No provision was made for the delicacy of the situation either. Officers and men of the 345th Regiment deployed in Gudauta are well aware of the fact that that territory is under Abkhaz control. "This order of things," Mr. Zatulin said, "is a demonstrative act infringing on the Abkhaz side's interests, which runs counter to Russia's obligations as a mediator and peacekeeper in the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict."

The chairman of the State Duma Committee on CIS Affairs expressed doubt regarding the fact that the existence of military bases on Georgian soil would guarantee eternal friendship between the two states. All the more so because, according to Konstantin Zatulin's information, Russian military units on Georgian territory have long been brought up to strength by enlisting citizens of that republic. According to available information, Georgian citizens account for 100 percent of the 145th Batumi Division's personnel, of whom 80 percent are Georgians drafted to serve in the Russian military unit.

In addition, Russia will be ill-advised to let its current policy degenerate into small change, thus risking the ruin of its good relations with Abkhazians, Russians, and Ossetians living in the region.

Mr. Zatulin thinks that Georgia should resolve the problems of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and their state arrangement on mutually acceptable conditions. It has so far failed to do so, however, expecting Russia to go on pulling chestnuts out of the fire so that Georgia can retain its territorial integrity.

Criminal Proceedings Begun Against Norwegian Group

LD2610100095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0800 GMT 26 Oct 95

[By Igor Pshenichnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] OSLO, October 26 (ITAR-TASS) — Norway has officially applied to Russia, asking to provide all possible information on criminal proceedings instituted by Russian law enforcement bodies against the Norwegian public ecological organization "Bellona", said Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjorn Tore Godal, addressing the Norwegian parliament on Wednesday. The Norwegian minister said that he had notified Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev about the case.

The Russian Federal Security Service (RFS) has been investigating the case of disclosing Russia's state secrets in documents provided by the "Bellona" organization. The documents were confiscated by RFS agents at a Murmansk-based "Bellona" branch department early in October.

The Norwegian foreign minister noted that the Norwegian authorities had been maintaining a permanent and good dialogue with the Russian authorities. The Norwegian side has no grounds to believe that the act committed by RFS bodies against the Bellona Murmansk-based department implies that Russia has changed its stance as far as openness and cooperation are concerned, the Norwegian foreign minister said.

At the same time, the Norwegian minister pointed out that during its further political and practical contacts with Russia Norway would continue to lay the emphasis on ensuring the best conditions for the activities of these public ecological organisations.

The Norwegian Foreign minister said that over the past three years the Norwegian government had given financial aid to "Bellona" to realise a number of projects. Norway had set clear cut terms for this organization, envisaging that all projects should be carried out in full compliance with existing laws, the Minister said.

Commenting on the situation, the Norwegian Environment minister Thorbjorn Bentsen said that he does not believe in "Bellona"s involvement in spying against Russia. Bentsen pointed out that he was seriously concerned about criminal proceedings instituted in Russia against this organization because the Russian authorities were aware of support given to " Bellona" by the Norwegian government.

Norwegian Military Uses Russia To Up Defense Budget

MM2510143795 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Golts: "Cold Wind from Norway?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The chill which has set in between Russia and the West is regrettably having an increasing influence even on those states for whom good relations with Moscow have for decades been a priority in foreign policy. I recently wrote that although Norway is a member of NATO, the border with it was never regarded as a line of confrontation. Primarily because of the restrictions that Oslo enforced on joining NATO. This refers, in particular, to the nonsiting of nuclear weapons and foreign troops on its territory and also the refusal to conduct maneuvers involving the NATO countries in the north of the country. This happened during the Cold War. Now when military confrontation seems to be a thing of the past, people in Norway intend to lift the restrictions on military maneuvers.

At the same time military leaders have begun to issue statements that cannot be described as anything but extremely strange. This primarily pertains to the recent speech made by General Arne Solli, Armed Forces commander in chief, at a Norwegian military seminar. "Henceforth we must take into consideration the fact that there is a risk of surprises in the military sphere," he said. "We must learn to live in conditions where it is impossible to predict anything.... The history of warfare attests that strategic attacks occur time after time. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait may serve as a recent example." He went on to say: "Norway is in a region where there is still the possibility of conflict."

No matter how you look at it, Norwegians are intended to draw only one conclusion from these seemingly abstract opinions: Russia could do something like Iraq. This spring, top Norwegian military officials talking about major NATO military exercises in the south of the country tried to persuade me that the current NATO scenarios are in theory based on the premise that a surprise attack is impossible. What has changed now?

I do not think anything has changed. It is simply time to justify in parliament the expenditure that the Defense Ministry considers necessary for the development of the Norwegian Army. And, according to Arne Solli, it has a limited period to ensure the defense of the national territory. To that end ground forces must be more mobilized and have powerful weapons, the Navy must be fully modernized, and the Air Force must retain its entire combat strength and be capable of controlling airspace.

It is pointless to argue here. Norway is entitled to have the kind of armed forces that it wants. However, it is hardly sensible to justify military spending by reviving the myth of the "threat from the East." Especially since this myth was never very popular in Norway.

Roundtable Focuses on Caspian Sea Status, Resources

LD2510153795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 25 (PIA) — Countries bordering the Caspian Sea have no legal right to develop its resources until the sea's new status has been resolved, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev said at an international meeting, Status of the Caspian Sea and Perspectives on Utilization of its Resources, in Moscow Wednesday.

The issue on the Caspian Sea's territorial division should be solved on the principle of noninvolvement in the inner affairs of the coastal states and according to "principles of justice," a Petroleum Information Agency correspondent quoted Chernyshev as saying.

He also noted Russia's, Iran's and Turkmenistan's common positions on the status of the Caspian Sea.

However, Chernyshev underlined that until now Russia and Kazakhstan "occupy different positions on this issue." Azerbaijan pursues "the toughest course" with respect to the Caspian Sea and "as before adheres to the principle of national sectors on the Caspian Sea," he added.

Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry legal department Aleksandr Khodakov told the meeting that "Russia cannot recognize the legal grounds of the Baku contract for developing Azeri, Chirag, and Gyuneshli oil fields in the Caspian Sea."

At the same time, LUKoil Vice President Vitaliy Lesnichiy pointed out that despite "the difficulties with the legal base" of the Baku contract, there are no contradictions between the company and Russia's Foreign Ministry. LUKoil at present owns a 10 percent stake in the international consortium created to develop Azerbaijan's Caspian oil fields.

Representatives of the Turkmen and Iranian Embassies, Russia's Fuel and Energy Ministry, Russian Academy of Sciences and other departments are participating in the round table.

Kiev Blamed For Slow Progress on Black Sea Fleet

LD2510213995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1253 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Starukhin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Voronezh, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Ukraine is deliberately making it more difficult to resolve the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander in chief of the Russian navy, stated here today. He heads the delegation of the Russian Navy command and the maritime center under the Russian Government which is analyzing the course of preparations for the 300th anniversary of the Russian Navy.

"At first the talks were conducted on a single package of questions requiring resolution, but then the package was 'blown up' and in the end the whole negotiating process was brought to nought," Kasatonov noted at a news conference in response to a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent. He considers that the fleet's future has not been resolved and that a very important interstate problem cannot remain in such a state for long.

"Ukraine prefers to use strong-arm tactics to resolve disputed questions," the first deputy commander in chief of the Russian navy stated. "Our side, including the Foreign Ministry, acts passively."

Kasatonov supposes that the president of the Russian Federation and the government should pay much more attention to the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. "The renaissance of the fleet is also the renaissance of Russia," the admiral summed up.

Estonian, Russian Negotiators Draft Border Accord

WS2510122695 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Oct 24, BNS — Estonian and Russian negotiating teams at talks in the Russian town of Pskov on Tuesday [24 October] agreed on a draft paving the way to a border accord between the countries, Estonia's top negotiator said.

"We reached an agreement but there are many things left open in the draft which are to be settled in further talks," said Raul Malk, vice chancellor of the Estonian foreign ministry. He said the draft would serve as basis for the border agreement.

Malk said the draft defined the legal procedure for how the countries will determine the borderline on land and on the border lakes.

He said the accord marked progress in the border talks.

The two countries presented maps at the Pskov round of talks showing their vision of how the borderline should run in the future. "Estonia presented a compromise option," Malk said. But he refused to give details.

The borderline suggested by the Russian delegation in most part coincides with the present border, he said.

Estonia wants to sign a new border agreement with Russia and says it would give up claims for some 2,000 square kilometers of land determined as Estonian under a 1920 peace treaty if Russia recognizes the peace treaty just for a moment.

Russia at the Pskov round of talks repeated its refusal to recognize the 1920 Tartu peace treaty.

The negotiators also reached an agreement on the draft of a sea border accord and said an agreement on border liaision officers is ready and will be initialed at the next round of talks, due the week after the next.

According to the latest poll, 29 percent of Estonians and 70 percent of Russain-speakers in Estonia would agree to leaving the border where it currently is. Thirty-three percent of ethnic Estonians and seven percent of Russian-speakers demand that the border be removed to where it should lie according to the Tartu peace treaty, says the survey by the Saar Poll agency.

Federation Council Passes International Agreements

LD2510173695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1444 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — The Federation Council upper house of parliament today ratified the agreement on the customs union between Russian and Belarus and the Protocol about the introduction of a free trade zone without exceptions and limitations on the territory of the two countries.

The agreement signed by the two Governments last January is already partly effective enabling the two countries to carry out priority measures aiming to create conditions for the functioning of the customs union.

The accord provides for the lifting of certain restrictions on trade, the unification of regulatory enactments and a number of other steps designed to coordinate work of the two countries' customs and border services.

The Federation Council Committee for CIS Affairs noted that the customs union of Russia with Belarus and Kazakhstan was "a pilot project for testing principles of mutually beneficial processes in Commonwealth member-states and of creating an economic union as the basis for solving their peoples' vital problems."

The Federation Council also ratified the Treaty of friendship and cooperation between Russia and Portugal, the first treaty of its kind to be signed between the two countries. It lays down a sound legal framework for "a qualitatively new stage in the development of the Russo-Portuguese relations in all fields."

According to experts this treaty, together with similar agreements signed with France, Spain, Italy and Germany, will make a considerable contribution to the creation of a new system of cooperation and security in Europe.

The upper house also ratified the Consular Convention between the Russian Federation and the Latvian Republic signed last December. The documents provides a framework for consular relations between Russia and Latvia and creates a legal field for the activity of officials, first of all in the field of servicing and protecting the rights and interests of citizens and legal persons of the Russian Federation on Latvian territory. Under the Convention, the two countries pledge to notify the other party without delay about detention, arrest or any other restriction of the rights and freedoms of citizens of the other country.

Yeltsin Greets Nazarbayev on Kazakhstan Holiday

MM2610110595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report under "President" rubric: "Congratulations on Republic Day"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today is a holiday in Kazakhstan — Republic Day. On this occasion Boris Yeltsin has sent President Nursultan Nazarbayev a greetings message wishing the people of the friendly country happiness, prosperity, and well-being. "The traditional, multifaceted Russian-Kazakhstani cooperation will enjoy further development on an equitable and mutually advantageous basis in the interests of our countries' peoples, the strengthening of the CIS, and the ensuring of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region," Boris Yeltsin's message reads.

Political Issues

Kozyrev Interviewed on Relations With Yeltsin

LD2510212895 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1725 GMT 25 Oct 95

[Studio interview with Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by program announcer Nikolay Svanidze on 25 October; from the "Details" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Svanidze] Hello. "Details" is on the air. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is here in the studio today. This is the minister's first interview since he was very seriously criticized a few days ago by President Yeltsin. It is perhaps even logical that you, Andrey Vladimirovich, are now talking to me because I unintentionally played a possible part, perhaps not the best, in your fate, asking the question which the president answered so sensationally during the meeting with journalists.

What was behind the president's remark that he had already decided to find a replacement for you?

[Kozyrev] I think that you asked the question at the proper time and received a reply that was by no means accidental. Of late, during the last year especially, it has become extremely difficult to work. And I understand that irritation, mutual irritation, has increasing developed in connection with the fact that immense pressure has been brought to bear on the president by political forces and, by those forces, let's say, which are closer to him, in connection with policy change inasmuch as many believe that the wind in the country has started blowing in a different direction, in the direction of greater nationalism - let's say it frankly, connected with being shut off from the outside world - and that the best method of winning in the elections is to show a capability, so to speak, well, of quarrelling so to speak, with the outside world.

I am against this course. I do not think that Russians are in favor of such a course and I think that such a course is costs us far more. First of all, the whole of policy is becoming fragmented, that is to say, for half a year we have been backsliding into confrontation, then the next summit meeting takes place, and, as we have seen, it ends in success, but this success is as it were something of a surprise after the entire policy has been gradually backsliding into something like confrontation. Then the president says in a raised voice, as he did in Hyde Park yesterday, says, yes, there will be partnership.

[Svanidze] The day before yesterday.

[Kozyrev] It seems to me — yes, the day before yesterday — it seems to me — I am mixing things up because of the flights — it seems to me that saying highly emotively that there will be partnership is even perhaps more an attempt to convince our own people that, yes, we must nevertheless adhere to this line because it is correct. There is no alternative. But if we had not been backsliding for half a year — and I was against this backsliding — then probably this outburst of emotion would not have been needed and we would have probably been able to obtain even more even though we obtained a very, very solid (?result).

[Svanidze] Have you been sensing the president's irritation for a long time?

[Kozyrev] I must say that over the past year work has been really difficult. It is a question of whether the course for which which I came into office is suitable and will be continued or whether this is real irritation and will translate itself into a decision, and I too reserve the right to take such a decision. When I joined the president it was not a case of joining a master and I am of course also unprepared for the tone of such public statements. I have always considered myself and I have always been a comrade-in-arms of the president both in 1990 and in 1993 and during all other years. I believe also that if people are needed that one can talk to as a master and in this tone it would indeed be better to find a new team.

I think, rather, that we worked with a president elected by the entire people, the first democratic president. And I hope that such work and maintaining the policy course, defending it firmly, not only during the whole summit but above all in work with departments and preserving the nature of relationship, namely one of comrades-in-arms, namely of partnership relations between people, is all perfectly possible and this is still worth fighting for.

[Svanidze] Have you had any kind of personal talk with the president after all this?

[Kozyrev] Yes, we have had personal contacts both before this and after this and it must be said that never, on the whole throughout the whole time, has there been either such a tone or such kind of grievances in personal contacts.

[Svanidze] I mean a personal talk now in the past few days. Have you had such a talk?

[Kozyrev] Of course, we were on the trip together.

[Svanidze] And you did not at all touch on what the president had said and your fate?

[Kozyrev] Essentially, no. I think that, and perhaps he needs some more time to think about the situation and I need some time. Why did I not reply at once publicly to these utterances by the president which you provoked by your question which I believe to be a good an correct one? Because a major foreign (?trip) lay ahead of us.

[Svanidze] No personnel question cropped up?

[Kozyrev] That's right. And, well, simply answering this question would have meant weakening even more our positions in the international forums: at the 50th anniversary of the UN and the very difficult talks which lay ahead of us. I think that as it was there has been too much talk about precisely the foreign minister and this perhaps did not strengthen our positions. But you understand yourself that a public answer, even though I don't think that my answer is of a polemical nature, my answer is rather of a friendly and fundamental nature... [incomplete sentence as heard]

[Svanidze] This now is your first answer to the president, essentially?

[Kozyrev] Yes, the first, but I am doing this after we returned from our foreign trips and where together we tried to get the best conditions for Russia and defended Russia's interests. I think that all kinds of explanations - I also have the right to give a public answer, to give an explanation. I think that we shall have a further personal conversation about essentials.

[Svanidze] Will you be asking for an audience with the president?

[Kozyrev] I proceed from the fact that each week, each Monday I have an audience with the president where there is a complete possibility of discussing both political matters — as we do — and personal matters. By the way, on the Monday, that is to say, two days prior to this news conference we had a meeting at which the president did not make any remarks. But this does not means that he also does not have any probably justified complaints. I share the justified criticism — and there is plenty of room for justified criticism with all of us; this is natural — and the political nature and the form of the statements which were made.

[Svanidze] On Monday you will be going to the president on Monday. Will you be telling him something: Boris Nikolayevich, why did you do it that way, or what did you have in mind or who are you looking for to be my deputy or to replace me? Will you be saying anything specific specific like that to him?

[Kozyrev] I think that we'll get down to the essentials regarding both political and individual personnel issues.

[Svanidze] Are you staying on or are you going?

[Kozyrev] I am prepared to stay provided we uphold our policy not just from summit to summit but on the day-to-day level. This is the coordination which the president expects from us. We can coordinate within the framework of his policy rather than working out this policy alongside with the departmental one. This would be impossible. The policy would then be subject to changes. So, provided the policy remains the same and the nature and the tone of the relationship is as between comrades-in arms rather than as between master and servant, I believe we have all the means to continue this interaction.

[Svanidze] When you arrived at the airport to go together with Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin], did you expect him to say: Stay on?

[Kozyrev] When I arrived at the airport I asked whether I should go and said that I do not think I should go. But because the president insisted, I went and I was prepared to do so. Therefore, I repeat, I do not think this was the best time to sort things out, especially in public — should I go or not, should I give an interview or not — before the very difficult talks at which Russia's interests would be paramount. I repeat, the main thing for me is that we defend our interests, through partnership. This is why it is only today, now that we are back from our foreign visit and have enough time to sort out our affairs, that I am talking to you about this.

[Svanidze] Will you be ready to carry on working right now, to remain at your post, if Boris Nikolayevich does not say he has found a replacement for you?

[Kozyrev] If the president still needs a comrade-in-arms who would implement the policy on the strength of which the president came to power and for the sake of which I left the USSR Foreign Ministry at that time to join Yeltsin, I shall happily remain at his service. It is not in my nature to take offense about some personal ... [pauses] after all, this is not the most important thing, although I take notice of this too. But this is not the main thing. The main thing is my work. And if he needs a comrade-in-arms to continue the policy which we have been implementing during the past five years, albeit with difficulty, he can rely on me. I shall not betray him.

Yeltsin Calls For Action on Delayed Pensions

MM2610111295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Pensions Will Be Paid On Time"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A very serious situation with regard to the payment of pensions has recently arisen in many parts of Russia. This question affects the vital interests of millions of Russians, is of an acute social nature, and even risks turning into a political problem, aggravating the atmosphere in the country.

In particular, with regard to the delays in paying pensions Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast Governor Boris Nemtsov has appealed to the Russian Federation President to provide the necessary funding for the region for October-December this year.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI has been told by the Kremlin press service that in this connection Boris Yeltsin has issued instructions to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Vasiliy Barchuk, chairman of the Russian Federation Pension Fund Board, to adopt specific measures to solve the problem of the delayed payment of pensions not only in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast but in Russia as a whole.

Yeltsin Orders Payments for Police, Interior Troops

LD2510221595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1903 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has ordered Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov to pay the debt in the wage and money allowances to the police personnel and interior ministry troops, the presidential press service told ITAR-TASS today.

Russian Interior Minister General Anatoliy Kulikov had informed the president that the wage and allowances to police and interior troops were delayed since September.

Yeltsin found the situation "intolerable" and ordered to find funds to clear the debt.

Yeltsin Rejects Amendments to Insurance Law

MM2510143595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report from the "President" column: "Threat to Insurance Market"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin has rejected the Federal Law "On Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Law 'On Insurance'" which was submitted to him for signing.

Our information: In his message to State Duma speaker I. Rybkin, the Russian Federation president explained that the legislative act that has been adopted would mean a major change to the insurance market that has developed in the country and would result in artificially holding back its development. This is because the law includes norms that considerably exacerbate the position of insurers compared with existing legislation.

There will be a ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI commentary in one of our issues soon.

Yeltsin Edict Gives Support to 'Rostselmash' Venture

MM2510160095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Rostselmash' Is Barely Alive. Here Is Some Medicine — From the President Himself"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has issued the Edict "On Measures To Provide the Russian Federation Agro-Industrial Complex with Grain- and Feed-Harvesting Equipment and State Support for the Restructuring of the 'Rostselmash' Joint-Stock Company."

As the Russian Federation president's press service reported yesterday, the Russian Federation Government and the Rostov Oblast Administration are instructed to ensure that an agreement is concluded with the "Rostselmash" joint-stock company on measures to stabilize the production of grain- and feed-harvesting equipment and on lending support to the restructuring of the "Rostselmash" joint-stock company.

Furthermore, in accordance with the edict, the Russian Federation Government is to ensure, within a 10-day period, the transfer to the the "Rostselmash" joint-stock company account funds envisaged in the 1995 budget for the formation of a leasing fund, 126.5 billion rubles targeted on the delivery to the aforesaid fund of grain and feed combine harvesters.

It has been recommended to organs of executive power of the Russian Federation components and the relevant organs of local self-government that they assist the "Rostselmash" joint-stock company and related enterprises in their acquiring ownership of the plots of land they occupy, either free of charge or by acquiring them by installments.

An oversight committee is being formed to ensure monitoring of the implementation of the program for the financial recovery of the "Rostselmash" joint-stock company.

Presidential Staff Discusses Immigration Issues

MM2610111095 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "2.5 Million People Have Moved to Russia in the Space of Two Years"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The problem of creating effective mechanisms to assist refugees and displaced persons in the CIS area was the focus of attention at a conference held at the Russian Federation Presidential Staff yesterday.

According to Sergey Krasavchenko, first deputy leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff, the head of state is following closely the situation in the migration sphere. During the past two years 2.5 million people have moved to Russia to take up permanent residence, and migration will not diminish over the next three-year period.

In August of last year the president issued an edict and the government adopted a decree on the problem of displaced persons. A general law on repatriates is also needed today.

Chernomyrdin Chairs Conference on Grain Purchases

LD2510221695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2130 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — Grain purchases to the Federal Food Fund were discussed at a conference chaired by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today.

The conference involved Food and Agriculture Minister Aleksandr Nazarchuk, Director of the Federal Food Corporation Magomedtagir Abdulbasirov and President of the Roskhlebprodukt company Leonid Cheshinskiy.

Nazarchuk told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview that the Agriculture Ministry, the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank of Russia had been instructed at the conference to find funds and draft a decision on financing grain purchases to the Federal Food Fund. The Fund supplies grain to major industrial centers, the country's most northern regions, the army and Interior Ministry units.

Only 800,000 tonnes of grain from the new harvest were purchased for the Fund as of October 20, instead of the required 8.6 million tonnes, the Russian State Statistics Committee said. Nazarchuk said financial difficulties were mostly to blame.

The Federal Food Corporation has concluded contracts for delivering "nearly 4 million tonnes of grain" to the Federal Fund. "A part of the delivery has already been financed with 1 trillion rubles." However, another 3 trillion rubles are required for making additional payments to agricultural producers because of the rise in purchase prices for grain, Nazarchuk said. He said the additional money would for the first time be attracted from commercial banks.

Everything should be done to prevent the grain produced in Russia from being removed abroad, Nazarchuk said. "The state should be the master of Russian grain rather than commercial structures because otherwise farmers would not ask where and at which price they should sell grain," Nazarchuk said.

Premier: Aid to Cossacks Will Strengthen Statehood

LD2610102295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0904 GMT 26 Oct 95

[By Nadezhda Anisimova and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 26 (ITAR-TASS) — Implementation of the state policy towards Cossacks is a component part of work performed by the Russian president and the government to strengthen Russian statehood, Russian premier Viktor Chernomyrdin said here on Thursday, addressing a conference of the heads of the Russian Federation's republics and regions where Cossacks live.

The Council for National Policy attached to the President of the Russian Federation has plans to submit for discussion a draft resolution on forms of service involving Cossacks.

The conference is also attended by the heads of federal bodies of executive power as well as by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Minister for Nationalities Affairs Vyacheslav Mikhaylov and the president's assistant for Cossack affairs Nikolay Yegorov.

The premier reported that, in compliance with the president's decree on a state Register of Cossack communities in the Russian Federation of last August 9, the government compiled a draft decision on types of state service for members of Cossack communities.

It stipulates that members of Cossack communities, put on the Register, are called up for state service at the Armed Forces, border troops, the Interior Ministry, Civil Defence units and other forces of the Ministry for Emergencies as well as at customs houses, nature protection and ecological services and at the service for control over the use and protection of lands.

The premier stressed that Cossack communities, which will not be put on the Register, will continue their activities as non-government organisations. Besides, Chernomyrdin reported, the president's office is drafting a decree for Cossack communities to participate in civil service.

According to the cabinet head, all normative documents on enlisting Cossacks for civil service are to be drafted and approved by December 15, as well as documents on paying them compensations and granting economic privileges.

Measures, being worked out by the president and the government, will operate before a federal law on Cossacks is adopted.

Addressing the conference, the president's assistant Yegorov, chairman of the Council on Cossack Affairs, called on the government to accelerate the approval of a comprehensive state programme for economic and cultural revival of Russian Cossacks and to take measures for its implementation, starting from 1996.

Besides, Yegorov suggested that the government include an item of outlays in the draft law on the 1996 federal budget to finance Cossack communities and their organisational establishment.

Commission Approves Budget Allocation for Science

LD2510233495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1718 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — A sum equal to 3 percent of all budget allocations are to be earmarked for the development of Russian science. Ultimately the figure will be brought up to the corresponding index of the developed countries.

This is one of the main provisions of the Russian science development doctrine that was approved today at the first sitting of the government commission for scientific and technical policy. This body is the successor to the previous interdepartmental commission.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who chaired the sitting, stressed that today the state was unable to support inefficient scientific organizations. Resources had to be concentrated on priority areas, specifically wherever these Russian priorities were important internationally.

The premier went on to make the point that, in the draft budget for next year, which had been submitted to the State Duma, expenditure on maintaining science "had not stretched to 3 percent", but the figure would be augmented during the work of the conciliation commission.

The head of the government called for the early conclusion of agreements with all Russia's partners to ensure that intellectual property rights were protected.

Today, though, an expert consultative council was created at the sitting of the government commission. This body will appraise the scientific and technical programs that are to be supported by federal funding.

The government commission also examined the question of state science centers. In Russia at the moment, Boris Saltykov, minister of science and technical policy, said, there are 61 science centers. But a further 200 assorted organizations wish to obtain that status.

Saltykov stressed that the temporary ruling on state science centers made provision for them to be funded from the state budget for only two years. Since the money for this purpose was now extremely limited, he proposed that the number of institutions with the status of state science centers should be frozen.

It was decided at today's sitting that its second sitting should take place in December, probably after the elections to the State Duma. Chernomyrdin suggested that it should consider the question of financing dual-technology projects and factories; i.e., those that served both military and civilian purposes.

The presidential council which deals with scientific matters has, of course, approved a list of dual-purpose programs. But next year's budget makes no provision for funding them.

Daily Comments on Kuntsevich Smuggling Charges

MK2610062795 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 14

[Report by Leonid Beres and Aleksandr Koretskiy under the "Well-Known Scientist's Travails" rubric: "Mikhail Barsukov Poisons a Chemist's Life"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On Saturday, Central Electoral Commission chairman Nikolay Ryabov said that Anatoliy Kuntsevich, former chairman of the committee on the problems of a chemical and bacteriological weapons convention, who is running for the State Duma on the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] ticket, was charged with smuggling out 800 kg of chemical reagents that could be used to create combat poison gases. According to Ryabov, he was given this information by Federal Security Service [FSB] director Mikhail Barsukov. Academician Kuntsevich himself denied all charges made against him in his interview for KOMMERSANT-DAILY. [passage omitted]

Anatoliy Kuntsevich told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that he has never sold poison gases to foreign countries and does not understand the meaning of the charges brought against him. He stressed that officers of the FSB's investigation administration, who are conducting an enquiry into the case, have as yet not examined the depot from which the dual-purpose substances were allegedly sold. Kuntsevich thinks that, had the arrival and disbursement of these substances been checked at the warehouse, no questions would have arisen. The academician would not specify what depot was involved and what it had to do with the case.

Nonetheless, the chemist believes that Central Electoral Commission chairman Nikolay Ryabov's move to make the matter public after the election campaign has begun is "an outright attack on his party," the LDPR. [passage omitted]

This whole story is curious at least for two reasons. First, the Russian special services have indirectly admitted the possibility of smuggling combat poison gases and highly-active dual-purpose reagents out of the country. In terms of its possible consequences this event is comparable to a Russian confession to the smuggling out of nuclear materials. The second noteworthy point is the timing of Mikhail Barsukov's disclosure of the chemical smuggling incidents — the Russian president is in the United States, bracing himself for the most difficult talks with Bill Clinton on a whole range of bilateral and international problems. Experts also expect them to discuss the problem of eliminating chemical weapons (it is not by chance that the Russian president mentioned at his Paris news conference the threat posed by the poison gas potential accumulated in the world). For this reason it is not ruled out that the "Kuntsevich case" serves Moscow's entirely mundane interests, demonstrating the length to which a person who designed binary weapons was forced to go by a lack of money.

[Article includes the following boxed, unattributed commentary]

According to Doctor of Chemical Sciences Lev Fedorov, president of the Union for Chemical Security, the Russian FSB had all the requisite information on the "Kuntsevich case" back in May 1994. In one of his interviews Sergey Stepashin, then FSB chief, explicitly acknowledged that his service had ample evidence of Anatoliy Kuntsevich's unscrupulous dealings relating to chemical weapons. But all attempts made by specialists at the time to learn details were in vain. Yet the information turned over by Mikhail Barsukov to the Central Electoral Commission is also far from exhaustive, but it does not rule out the possibility that an experimental poison gas has found its way to the Near East.

As for specific types of poison gases that could have been smuggled out, given the positions held by Kuntsevich in 1992-1994, it is very difficult to make even approximate suggestions. Dual-purpose chemical reagents, such as hydrocyanic acid and phosgene, could well have been smuggled out or prepared for smuggling. The list could have included components for state-of-the-art poison gases. One should not forget that Academician Kuntsevich was deputy chief of the Russian Chemical Troops in charge of experimental research from 1983 through 1992. In other words, experimental research could have been conducted into absolutely new poison gases under his direct command and experimental consignments of such gases could have been created that have never been registered by the state. Later, Kuntsevich's appointment to the post of chairman of the convention committee only broadened his opportunities.

However noisy the current scandal might be at its initial stage, later (there is no doubt about it) the case is bound to be soft-pedaled. A trial is completely out of the question — Kuntsevich knows so much about the actual state of chemical weapons in Russia that the publication even of a small part of what he knows could prove suicidal for the authorities, above all from the international viewpoint.

Shumeyko Applauds Decision on Federation Council

LD2510174295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1457 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — Federation Council speaker Vladimir Shumeyko today told a press conference that "the most important decision" had been made as a result of a lengthy discussion of the bill on the formation of the upper house of Russian parliament.

"At long last, the crucial decision has been made, the fate of the Federation Council must be determined by the house itself," Shumeyko said.

He announced that he would henceforth head a group of experts drafting a bill on the procedure of forming the Federation Council. The bill would "reflect all the requirements made with regard to this body by the Constitution and the vision of its role in the state power structure." When finalised the bill would be put before the State Duma.

Shumeyko reiterated that not only the leaders of the regions but also the leaders of the Federal bodies of authority should be represented in the Federation Council on an analogy with the signing of the Federation Treaty. When the Treaty had come up for signing, the President, the Prime Minister and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation signed it together with representatives of the component parts of the Federation.

The speaker recalled that Boris Yeltsin told a press conference in September about the possibility of participation of representatives of the Federal bodies of state authority in the Federation Council.

Asked about his reaction to the proposal to prolong the term of the present Federation Council if no new Federation Council was formed after December 17, Shumeyko replied that he had been the first to come up with the initiative.

He explained the difficulties that arose in the process of determining the further fate of the upper house not only by the "character of the political moment in struggle for power in the country," but also by the lack of sufficient experience of such processes: "the Federation itself is still very new."

Interior Minister Says Police Need 'Self-Purge'

LD2510213495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1759 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Interior Minister General Anatoliy Kulikov said he could not imagine the scale of corruption affecting Russian police when he was taking his post three months ago.

Addressing a conference of CIS Interior Ministries in the Armenian capital Yerevan today, Kulikov said the fight of organised crime and corruption would be only scratching the surface unless police starts with self-purge.

Kulikov said the operation codenamed "Clean Hands" was starting in Russian police.

He promised that its initial results would be made public soon.

This is not another campaign or witch-hunting. It is the effort to clean the law and order system from corrupt members and their sponsors, Kulikov said.

He informed the conference about a string of organisational and manpower changes.

Kulikov said he had made the Russian organised crime chief directorate directly accountable to himself.

The regional hierarchy of its command has been reinforced.

Police Major-General Valeriy Petrov has been appointed the directorate acting head, Kulikov continued.

He said Petrov was head of the operations and search service of the Soviet-era chief directorate for thefts of socialist property, but was tucked away into a lower post in the Interior Ministry's research institute by former Interior Minister Nikolay Shchyolokov. Shchyolokov killed himself after he made a tumble in a campaign of police corruption probes launched by Yuriy Andropov.

Kulikov said he had also made directly accountable to himself the Interior Ministry's operations and search department, technical operations department and radio-electronic control centre.

The Russian Interior Ministry is setting up a police security department, which is an operations and search division, whose responsibilities include personnel inspections.

The division will have a regional net, also accountable to the interior minister.

Zhirinovskiy Opposes Transfer of Chechen Officials

LD2510123395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1052 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has lashed out against the transfer of Salambek Khadzhiyev and Umar Avturkhanov to Moscow. Khadzhiyev and Avturkhanov resigned as, respectively, the chairman of the Chechen government and the leader of Chechnya's National Council earlier this week. They were offered high positions in Moscow.

"Everything that comes from the south is filth and corruption," Zhirinovskiy said.

Duma speaker Rybkin suggested that relevant information be considered before the lawmakers make a decision or a statement on the issue in question.

Media Issues

Kozyrev, INTERFAX To Sue Radio Liberty for Libel

LD2510221995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2126 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and the country's biggest independent news agency, INTERFAX, on Wednesday decided to bring a libel suit against Radio Liberty.

Radio Liberty reported on October 19 that Kozyrev, meeting journalists in "an influential Russian news agency" the evening before, sharply criticized President Boris Yeltsin and said "all of Moscow's foreign policy failures had been the fault of the Kremlin."

Though the report, taken up by other media companies, did not name the agency, the fact that Kozyrev visited the INTERFAX central office in Moscow that day was not intended to be kept secret and was known to many Russian Foreign Ministry officials and reporters.

No journalists were invited to meet Kozyrev at INTERFAX, however, since the purpose of the minister's visit was not to give a news conference or a briefing but to see work organization at the agency and its facilities for the prompt distribution of information, primarily international news.

Kozyrev and INTERFAX maintain that the Radio Liberty report is untrue and seriously damages their reputations.

Military Issues

New Precision Missile Tested Successfully

MM2610110395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 1

[Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information Directorate report: "New High-Precision Weapon System Being Created"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the preliminary testing program, the next launch of a new operational-tactical missile at a specific point of aim has been carried out at the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense State Central Test Range. The missile hit the target within the time determined by the training flight assignment.

A high-precision, mobile, integrated missile system is being created in Russia for the Ground Forces. This is a priority subject within the framework of the Russian program for the development of high-precision weapons. The Ministry of Defense is trying to advance such projects through superhuman efforts together with domestic industry, despite a most acute funding situation, Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister, noted. This system has no analogues in the world, but also fully meets the parameters of the Treaty on Intermediate-range and Shorter-range Missiles, Colonel General Anatoliy Sitnov, chief of Armaments of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, said, commenting on the successful launch of the missile.

The tests were conducted under the leadership of Army General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, who gave a high assessment of the coordinated work of the missilemen.

The first deputy defense minister and the chief of the General Staff sent greetings and expressed profound gratitude to the developers of this missile complex, and to all the scientists, engineers, workers, and servicemen participating in its creation and completion, who are continuing to astonish the world with new achievements even in today's very difficult conditions.

Defense Ministry Licensing Statute Detailed

MM2510141995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Afterword to a Document: For Working in the Army"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The statute on the licensing by the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense of individual types of activity (Russian Federation Government Decree No. 841 dated 26 August 1995 "On the Ratification of the Statute on the Licensing by the Ministry of Defense of Certain Types of Activity (Work, Services)" published in the 11 October 1995 edition of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA) changes established opinion as to the total secrecy of the defense department. It even allows private sector workers to work for the benefit of the Army. Individuals engaged in entrepreneurial activity are permitted, like military units and departmental enterprises, to carry out construction work as well as repairing and selling military-use measuring equipment.

However, this does not in any way mean the absence of all constraints. Both the Ministry of Defense licensing center for construction work and the Russian Federation Armed Forces Metrological Service are making fairly tough demands of applicants: The licensees are obliged to adhere to the requirements of legislation and the rules and norms of the chosen sphere of activity. Equally important are the skill of the executors and the availability of the necessary machinery, mechanisms, and instruments. Those who make, repair, and sell measuring equipment have to have specially equipped working premises and a certificate of accreditation for the right to verify this equipment or a contract with a military unit or enterprise possessing this right.

The Statute on Licensing will also put an obstacle in the path of all kinds of bureaucratic abuse in the issue of licenses and verification of the implementation of the terms of the license. The organs entrusted with these duties are answerable by law for any violation or improper implementation of the present statute.

Federal Assembly

Deputies Inquire About Ingush Airport Incident

LD2510121395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1127 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova and Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — The Council of the Federation plans to issue today a statement in connection with the incident, which occurred on Tuesday at the "Ingushetia" airport, located near the Ingush village of Sleptsovskaya.

As earlier reported, two helicopters landed there in the afternoon of October 24. From 20 to 30 commandos alighted from them and began searching people in the airport building and checking their documents. They opened fire during this action, killing one man and wounding six others. Then the commandos flew away towards Chechnya. Ingush Vice-President Boris Agapov, who informed ITAR-TASS by telephone about the incident on Tuesday, claims that the Russian helicopters could have been dispatched to the "Ingushetia" airport on the strength of a report that the latter was allegedly captured by Dudayev's gunmen.

The question concerning this incident was raised in the Upper House of the Russian Parliament by Ingush President Ruslan Aushev, who said that "the action against terrorism was carried out in violation of all the existing laws".

He said that reports about Dudayev's raid proved to be untrue, but, nevertheless, fire was opened in the airport and there were casualties and damages.

Aushev's protest was backed by Issa Kostoyev, Chairman of the Committee for Constitutional Legality and Judicial Problems, and Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev. Kostoyev noted that a similar situation had occurred in that airport before. In his opinion, the latest incident was actually "a deliberate provocation, hatched by definite circles, in order to unleash hostilities in one more subject of the Federation".

Chairman of the Council of the Federation Vladimir Shumeyko recommended not to begin any noisy debates, but to instruct the Council's Committee for Security and Defence to draw up a decision of the Upper House on the "Ingushetia" airport incident and to send it to the Procurator-General's Office of the Russian Federation. The MPs will discuss this document during today's meeting.

The State Duma also devoted much attention to the airport incident today. The Lower House of the Russian Parliament will address an interpellation in this ocnnection to the Russian Security Council, the Defence Ministry, and the Procurator-General's Office. Today's plenary meeting of the Duma voted for this decision. The interpellation motion came from MP Aleksandr Ochirova.

Federation Council Protests Against NATO Expansion

LD2510162195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1541 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — A firm protest against NATO's eastward expansion was expressed today by the Russian parliament's Federation Council. It unanimously adopted today a statement urging the parliaments and governments of the European states and the United States to be consistent in implementing their proclaimed policy of bringing Russia and the Western countries closer together.

The deputies voiced their concern over the increase in NATO's political and military activities, and the implementation of the plans to expand the bloc by accepting as members the states of Eastern Europe and the states that used to be republics of the former USSR. In the senators' opinion, such a development of the situation cannot leave Russia unconcerned.

"The approach of the NATO war machine to the borders of the Russian Federation creates a serious threat to Russia's political, economic, and military security, and destabilizes the situation in NATO's expansion area from the Black Sea to the Baltic," the document adopted by the Federation Council says.

Council Approves Duma Move on Yugoslav Sanctions

LD2510202795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1656 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Federation Council today approved a State Duma-passed law on Russia's phased backing out from the international sanctions against the former Yugoslavia.

The Federation Council Committees for International Issues and National Security opposed the law, but the Federation Council passed it on the grounds that the U.N. Security Council's sanctions affected the living standards of the former Yugoslavia's population and Russia's economic interests.

By phasing the sanctions out Russia can re-establish the full-range cooperation which is to interests of both states, the council's resolution says.

The law stresses that there are no grounds for leaving the sanctions in place as the former Yugoslavia had shown compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions and is staying away from the armed conflict in the Balkans.

The law recommends to the Russian president and the government to bring their statutory acts in conformity with the law within a month's time.

The law mandates the Russian Foreign Ministry to inform the U.N. about Russia's gradual withdrawal from the sanction regime.

Federation Council Votes Down Black Sea Fleet Law

LD2510175795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1608 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Federation Council, or the upper house, today voted down a State Duma-passed law which would suspend Russia's unilateral cuts and funding of the Black Sea fleet.

The Federation Council already turned down last spring the State Duma's draft law which was to ban unilateral cuts of the fleet as contradicting Russia's international commitments.

The latest draft reiterates the bulk of the last year's version, amending only two insignificant clauses of it.

The Federation Council's Defence and Security Committees passed a resolution, saying that Russia must comply with its commitments under bilateral agreements and is rightful in demanding this from Ukraine.

This stance is endorsed by the Russian Defence Ministry.

Council Takes Issue With Draft 1996 Budget

MM2510131895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 16

[Article by Anna Kozyreva: "Senators Get Down to a Search for Money and Compromises"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even before the deputies in the upper chamber had started active work on the draft budget for next year, Valeryan Viktorov, deputy chairman of the Federation Council, noted that it was most likely that the law on the 1996 budget would be adopted by the new composition of the Federal Assembly. At the moment events are developing in accordance with that very scenario.

According to the deputies, the level of the initial economic parameters lying at the heart of the draft budget indicators, such as the level of inflation, the volume of sources of revenue, and other parameters, is unrealistic.

The government inflation forecast (1-2 percent monthly) is based on the use of an understated rate of its growth as a normative rather than calculated value. This may lead to miscalculations in the formation of the revenue side of the budget. And, as a result, to the arbitrary funding of the various areas of budget expenditure.

The intensified concentration of financial resources in the federal budget also contradicts the present role of the Federation components, and the growth of federal budget revenues in the consolidated budget from 47 percent in 1994, 48.1 percent in the first six months of 1995 to the 49 percent projected for 1996 testifies to this.

The formation of the revenue side using Western credits also generates serious concern. The amount of external borrowing is set at $9.2 billion.

The indicator for revenue from privatization in 1996 is high — 3.8 percent of budget revenues. These figures are 1.5 times greater than the plan for this year and almost three times the expected implementation this year.

The Federation Council Committee for Social Policy notes that budget expenditures on the implementation of a number of adopted laws are either items within general articles, or simply come under the "Other Expenditure" article without being explained in any way. These are the laws "On Veterans," "On Social Services for the Elderly and Invalids," "On Material Security and Medical Services for Families...," "On State Subsidies for Citizens with Children," and others.

As a result, monitoring the allocation of money is made extremely difficult. There is apprehension that, in this form, the budget will not be in line with adopted legislation.

The reduction in expenditure on health protection from 3.2 percent in 1991 to 1.3 percent in 1996 generates serious concern.

The Security and Defense Committee also has reservations. Expenditure on national defense is envisaged at 80 trillion rubles [R]. This is 1.7 times less than the sum announced by the ministry.

As Deputy Minister Andrey Kokoshin noted, "without developing the scientific areas we will not create a reserve for the future. Russia's sovereignty will be jeopardized."

The draft budget also envisages reducted expenditure on the agro-industrial complex. The reduction is pretty considerable: from 3.75 percent to 3.1 percent. Capital investments in the agro-industrial complex in the past five years have fallen to one-twelfth of the initial figure. The 1996 budget consolidates this negative trend and is essentially leading toward the curtailment of agricultural production. The deputies also remind us that the per capita consumption of produce has fallen by one-third in Russia and is now at the consumption level of the developing countries.

The senators reject the current opinion that there is no money in Russia. Thus, Vyacheslav Zvolinskiy, chairman of the Agrarian Policy Committee, maintained that the embezzlement of raw material resources is equivalent to $20 billion a year, while annual losses from the understated prices of exported Russian goods constitute $100 billion and losses from the overstated prices of imported goods are also assessed at $100 billion.

It is hard to believe these astounding figures. Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov did not even comment on them when he defended the government's position in the Federation Council. He merely noted that there are many problems and it is impossible to find answers to all the questions in one budget. Therefore, from what he said, "the proposed draft cannot be considered ideal." But the government is prepared to do some constructive work on the budget.

Federation Council Rejects Bill on Its Formation

LD2510135195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1204 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — The Federation Council (Russian parliament upper house) rejected on Wednesday a bill on procedure of its formation, which was adopted by the State Duma (lower house) on October 11. Only ten deputies voted for the bill.

Legislators argued for a long time what to do next for a new composition of the Federation Council to be formed in time and in compliance with the Constitution. As a result a decision was passed to instruct the Federation Council speaker to organise work on drafting a new bill by November 14, taking into account previous versions of the bill and remarks by deputies.

Many legislators who participated in the debate on a new version of the bill on forming the Federation Council, claimed that "work on the bill about the upper chamber is nearing a dead-end".

The first version of the bill adopted by the two chambers last summer, was rejected by the Russian president, as running counter to the Constitution.

This version provided for elections of representatives from members of the Russian Federation to the upper chamber, while the Constitution says that it should be formed from representatives of legislative and executive bodies of power.

The State Duma adopted a new version of the bill on October 11, saying that heads of legislative bodies of power from regions form the Federation Council.

The executive body of a region should be also represented by its head at the upper chamber, but he is to be elected by population by secret voting. Members of the federation "which do not have elected heads of executive power bodies, presidents or other supreme officeholders, are to stage such elections within eight months".

This "directive" in the bill caused sharp criticism from several members of the upper chamber. Its speaker Vladimir Shumeyko told reporters that the bill "violates spirit and letter of the Constitution".

It infringes on the rights of federation members, since only members may set dates for elections in regions. Besides, the bill "does not reflect the state of Russian society and deprives the state of a chance to have its representatives at the Federation Council".

It would turn out, Shumeyko claimed, that there will be "a Council of the Federation's members but not a Federation Council". He stressed that the Federal Treaty was signed not only by the heads of the federation's members but also by the Russian president and other leaders of the federation.

According to the speaker, the Federation Council is not simply a chamber adopting bills. It is "a political body and a supreme body of representative power of the state".

The main committee of the Federation Council — the Committee on Federation's Affairs, the Federal Treaty and Regional Policy — gave a negative conclusion on the bill in the belief that it contained "contradictory and disputable provisions, running counter to the Fundamental Law of the state".

Senate Committee Recommends Skuratov for Prosecutor

MK2510143395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova: "Voting on a New General Prosecutor Will Take Place Today. Senate Lawyers and Military Support Yuriy Skuratov's Candidacy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday the Federation Council's Legislation Committee unanimously decided to recommend to the upper house that the candidate proposed by the president — Yuriy Skuratov — be approved for the post of the general prosecutor.

A routine Federation Council session opens today, and the question of the general prosecutor is the first item on the agenda. Legislation Committee head Issa Kostoyev feels sure that the senators "have no reason not to approve Yuriy Skuratov's candidacy." It is instructive that Petr Shirshov, head of the Committee for Security and Defense Issues, representing the senate's military lobby (who was one of the organizers of Aleksey Ilyushenko's repeated "burial" in the senate under the "no to the presidential candidate" slogan), said yesterday that at the Federation Council session "a new general prosecutor — Yuriy Skuratov — will be undoubtedly be born, and colleagues will congratulate him wholeheartedly." Judging by what has been said by Federation Council members, they continue to view Yuriy Skuratov as a person from the outside and as an expert legal scholar with an unblemished reputation. In the opinion of experts, however, if Mr. Skuratov is approved as general prosecutor of the Russian Federation, he will hardly remain a person as inconspicuous for politicians as he is now. He is known to be regarded as a supporter of the "strict legalists" who rate observance of the law above any political interests or needs. Therefore, if Mr. Skuratov does become the new general prosecutor, for the present political leadership he could prove one of the most uncomfortable heads of the Russian Prosecutor's Office to deal with. It is noteworthy that Mr. Skuratov was also supported by former Moscow prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomarev, who is noted for his rigid, uncompromising stance as regards observance of the law irrespective of the political situation.

Yuriy Skuratov himself, speaking yesterday before the senate committee, was extremely careful and evasive in his answers, stressing his "nonengagement" with either political forces or the various "circles" at the General Prosecutor's Office. In his words, the president had chosen him precisely because of his "separation and distance" from the Stepankov, Kazannik, and Ilyushenko teams alike. True, Mr. Skuratov did observe that "some people are already suggesting that Boris Yeltsin 'picked him out' back in Sverdlovsk, since they are from the same region." He therefore reminded his audience that, when Boris Yeltsin was first secretary there, he had been "an ordinary Sverdlovsk student who saw Boris Nikolayevich only at his public meetings with local young people."

Yuriy Skuratov promised that, if elected general prosecutor, he would "go immediately to Chechnya to find out on the spot what is happening there." He also promised to launch reforms at the General Prosecutor's Office, "with the problem of personnel being taken up first." In the opinion of specialists it is also quite probable that the staff reshuffle will most likely mean not dismissing people but recruiting or, more precisely, bringing back to the General Prosecutor's Office staffers who have left or have been dismissed in recent years in the course of various reorganization campaigns. Specifically, the experts believe that the return of Gennadiy Ponomarev to the prosecutor's office is quite possible. In addition, according to Yuriy Skuratov, it is planned to transfer the prosecution service to a contract basis.

Yuriy Skuratov categorically refused to answer your SEGODNYA correspondent's question about his political sympathies: He had "still not decided whom to vote for in December." The only reference point given by Yuriy Skuratov to journalists yesterday was a remark to the effect that when, as a student, he had attended Boris Yeltsin meetings in Sverdlovsk, he "liked" what the future Russian president was saying because it sounded "so... perestroyka-like." The only definite thing that the would-be general prosecutor said was that "the observance of human rights is a priority for me." Possibly, after today's voting at the senate, Yuriy Skuratov will be more open as to his political orientation.

Duma Overrides Veto on Law on Far North Workers

LD2510183495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1104 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian president's veto on the law previously adopted by the lower chamber "On the introduction of changes and additions to the Russian Federation Law on state guarantees and compensations for persons working and living in regions of the Far North and similar localities" was today overrided by the State Duma.

The deputies rejected the argument of Aleksandr Yakovlev, the president's authorized representative in the Federal Assembly, who proposed that parliamentarians adopt the document soon, but only after taking into consideration remarks and proposals made by the head of state. According to Aleksandr Yakovlev, it is necessary, among other things, to coordinate questions concerning the financing of the law, because the funds for these purposes had not been set out in the budget. However, the lawmakers adopted the law in its old form.

In addition, the deputies today overrided the president's veto on the law "On state regulations for the manufacture and sale of ethylene spirit and alcohol production". At the same time, the parliamentarians today newly adopted the law rejected by the president "On the continental shelf of the Russian Federation", taking into consideration remarks and proposals made by the head of state.

Duma Rejects Stripping Candidates of Immunity

LD2510233595 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2230 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On Wednesday for the first time ever in the State Duma's work a plenary sitting which was held in an unusually businesslike and calm atmosphere was concluded at 1400 and not in the evening as laid down by the procedure. Parliamentarians added a number of important points to the agenda. On Ivan Rybkin's proposal the only question not considered was postponed till next Friday, when a regular plenary sitting will be held.

Among other things the State Duma rejected a proposal that those parliamentary election candidates who either at the time of their nomination were under arrest or against whom an arrest warrant had been issued should be deprived of their immunity. Today there was not the necessary majority for adopting such an amendment to the federal law on the main guarantees for citizens' election rights.

Law Aims To Protect Opposition Political Activity

MK2510143195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov: "Opposition Activity in Russia Will Be Secured by Legal Guarantees. Draft Law Obliges Authorities To Take Care of Their Political Opponents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A draft law "On Legal Guarantees of Opposition Activity in the Russian Federation" has been drawn up by the Duma Committee for the Affairs of Public Associations and Religious Organizations. The statutory act is supposed to regulate "the functions of opposition public associations as well as their collaboration with the power structures." The aim of the law drafters has been "to equalize government and opposition in legal terms, to guarantee opposition activity within the limits of existing laws, and to ensure stability in social relations and continuity in effecting state administration functions in the event of parties and movements currently not represented in the state structures winning an election."

According to the draft law, "a public association is considered to be in opposition if its political aims are different from the goals and principles of the policy pursued by the bodies of state power."

Opposition political activity pursued by citizens, not running counter to the principles of the Russian Federation constitutional system, "is recognized to be socially useful" (Article 3). The statutory act assigns the government to take care of the opposition in every possible way, such as "assisting opposition public associations in training their specialists in state-run institutions of higher learning, with due regard for the fact that in the event of the opposition's coming to power these specialists must prove adequately trained to fulfill urgent state tasks." (Article 14)

A detailed study of Article 7 of the draft law leads one to presume that the drafters have been impressed by the British political system: "A leader of an opposition public association is entitled to participate in sessions of the government in a nonvoting capacity" (in the event that the association comprises no less than one-tenth of State Duma deputies). An opposition association supported by more than one-third of the deputies has the right to form a "shadow" government cabinet, "whose members are invited to participate in the collegial sessions of the respective ministries in a nonvoting capacity." Moreover official government publications "are obliged, at the opposition's request, to carry a full text of enquiries" made by leaders of opposition public associations.

Opposition status may be forfeited either in the event of an election win or under a court ruling, if "representatives of other public associations raise the issue of a particular association that presents itself as being in opposition while in fact pursuing a course of backing the government and its policies."

Duma Fails To Overide Council Military Service Veto

LD2510150895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — The increase of the term of active service from 1.5 to 2 years will concern everybody irrespective of the date of the call up and conditions of service. This is caused by the fact that the State Duma failed to override the Federation Council's veto on amendments to the decree On Military Duty and Military Service which, in particular, foresees that the term of service will not be increased for those who were called up before the decision on increasing the term of service from 1.5 to 2 years was adopted (in April 1995) and for those servicemen of the active service who participated in combat operations. Russia's Defense Ministry insisted on increasing the term of service referring to the fact that the army is understaffed.

Those who have a dependant, a single father or mother older than 50 years old, will not receive any delay from military service either. This amendment also failed to collect the needed 300 votes.

Legislative, Regulatory Documents 15-21 Oct

96P50006

[FBIS Media Note] The following is a listing of CIS legislation recently published in the press of the CIS compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parens indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation "Text" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications.

RUSSIA:

SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION (EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING, PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Government 26 September Decree No. 963 Approving Appended Federal Targeted Program 'Russian Shipyards' Plus Goncharov Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 4) (300/4000/750)

Government 9 October Decree No. 980 On Compensation For Expenditure On Evacuation Of RF Citizens From Foreign Countries In Event Of Emergencies. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 3) (500)

Government 9 October Directive No. 1377 On Competitive Tendering Linked Sale Of Shares In Svyazinvest Join-Stock Company With List Of Members Of Competition Commission. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p3) (500)

Government 9 October Directive No. 1382 On Endorsement Of Ministry Of Fuel And Energy Proposal On Appointing V.I. Lokotunin As Board Chairman Of Rosgazifikatsiya Joint-Stock Company. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 6) (60)

Government 13 October Decree No. 997 Freezing Prices Of Natural Gas, Electricity, and Heating Oil. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 1) (200) (Text)

Presidential 17 October Edict No. 1043 On Reorganization Of Postal Communications In RF. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 4) (300)

SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME, POLLUTION)

Yeltsin 5 October Edict No. 1008 On RF's Military-Technical Cooperation With Foreign Countries. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 3) (800)

Yeltsin 5 October Edict No. 1009 On RF State Committee On Military-Technical Policy Centralized Social And Materiel-Technical Fund. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 3) (450)

Government 9 October Directive No. 1370 On Replacement Of Deputy Chief Of Territorial Administration Of Federal Organs Of Executive Power In Chechnya. (Moscow R0SSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 4) (120) (Text)

Government 9 October Directive No. 1384 On Appointment Of Russian Representative For Examination Of Issues Connected With Implementation Of Russian-Belarusian Agreement On Baranovichi Early Warning System. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 3) (100) (Text)

Government 9 October Directive No. 1388 On Instructions To Foreign Ministry And Other Bodies Concerning Implementation Of Law On International Treaties. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 3) (450) (Text)

Government 9 October Directive No. 1393 On Removal Of Russian Ministry Of Environment And Natural Resources And Other Organizations From Buildings In Various Parts Of Moscow. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 3) (150)

Central Electoral Commission 11 October Decree No. 26/207 Refusing Registration To Party Of Constitutional Democrats And Russian Bourgeois-Democratic Party. Brief Summary Of Other Central Electoral Commission Decrees On Registration Of Parties And Movements. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 4) (300)

Central Electoral Commission 11 October Decree No. 26/210 On Supplementing Explanations On Procedure For Activity Of Agents Of Blocs, Candidates

When State Duma Elections Are Held. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 4) (500)

Federal Law No. 156 Of 13 October On Ratification Of Russian/Estonian Treaty On Pullout Of RF Troops. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 4) (100)

Yeltsin 16 October Edict No. 1041 On Elections Of Maritime Kray, Belgorod, Novosibirsk, Tver, and Yaroslavl Oblast Administration Heads. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Oct 95 p 1) (170) (Text)

Yeltsin 16 October Edict No. 1052 On Elections Of Heads Of Tambov, Orenburg, and Tomsk Oblast Administrations. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Oct 95 p 1) (150) (Text)

Federal Constitutional Law 'On Referendum.' (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Oct 95 pp 3-6) (24000) (Text)

SECTION III: SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL

Government 9 October Decree No. 983 On Federal Science And Production Centers With Appended Procedure For Conferring Status Of Aforementioned Center. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Oct 95 p 3) (1200) (Text)

KAZAKHSTAN:

Government 3 October Edict On Insurance. (Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Oct 95 pp 1-3) (2800) (Text)

Government 4 October Decree No. 1301 On Introduction Of A System of Independent Shipment Inspection Of Goods Imported Into The Republic Of Kazakhstan, And Text Of Accompanying Statute. (Almaty VESTI KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 12 Oct 95 p 1, 4) (600/600)

Government 5 October Edict on Introduction Of Changes And Additions To Certain Laws Concerning State Registration Of Legal Persons. (Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Oct 95 p 2) (1800)

Government 5 October Edict On Introduction Of Changes And Additions To Certain Legislative Acts on Taxes. (Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Oct 95 p 2) (2300)

Government 5 October Edict On Production Cooperative. (Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Oct 95 pp 1-2) (2000)

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage; Military, Negotiations, Politics

Retaliation Threatened After Ambush

AU2610105595 Paris AFP in English 1038 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Russia, Oct 26 (AFP) — Russian troops plan to retaliate after an ambush that killed at least 19 soldiers in southeastern Chechnya, and will advise residents in the area to leave, a Russian forces official said Thursday [26 October].

"There will be retaliation in the near future," said Evgeny Riabtsev, spokesman for Russian forces in the rebel Caucasus republic.

"There will be an attempt to clean the region of illegal armed bands," he said, referring to rebel fighters.

Federal Troops Warn of Retaliation

LD2610122095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1135 GMT 26 Oct 95

[By Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, October 26 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian military in Chechnya warned they would deal a retaliation strike on the bases of Chechen militants who ambushed a Russian convoy near Vedeno on Tuesday killing 18 troops and told civilians to stay away from the bases.

"The federal forces command is ready to deal a strike at illegal formations that stage armed provocations and acts of subversion and strive to frustrate the establishment of the peace process in the Chechen republic", the command said in a statement Thursday offering Chechen military commander Aslan Maskhadov to join in the retaliation thus proving it was not his forces behind the ambush.

Maskhadov has not provided any explanations about the incident so far, the statement said adding that "the federal forces command is ready to deal the strike jointly with units commanded by Maskhadov".

"The command knows of the (militants') bases in the Vedeno and Nozhay-Yurt districts from which the raid was launched on October 24" and warns "local residents to stay away from those bases so that there should be no civilian casualties".

The statement says that the armed provocation staged by illegal formations in Vedeno was "a gross violation of military accords".

It should be noted that illegal armed formations in the Vedeno district are led by Shirvani Basayev, member of the Special Observer Commission. The federal command "condemns the leadership of illegal armed formations that is engaged in double-dealing and is actually encouraging the terror and raids by Chechen gunmen", according to the statement.

Maskhadov Accused of Encouraging Terrorism

LD2610125195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1217 GMT 26 Oct 95

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 26 (ITAR-TASS) — The press centre of federal forces in Chechnya resolutely denounced on Thursday the leadership of illegal armed detachments — Aslan Maskhadov, Kazbek Makhashev, Akhmed Zakayev, Shirvani Basayev who conduct a dual policy and actually encourage terror and piratic attacks by rebels.

This statement was made after an ambush of a Russian army convoy, driving from the village of Kharachoy to the village of Dyshne-Vedeno, as a result of which 18 troops were massacred, eight wounded and eight taken hostage.

ITAR-TASS learnt at the press centre that information about hostages is preliminary. Efforts are now being taken to free them. These actions by the Russian side meet with threats from rebels stating that if attempts are made to free hostages by force, they will be gunned down.

Lobov Denies 'Prewar' Situation

LD2610142295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 26 Oct 95

[By Nadezhda Anisimova, Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 26 (ITAR-TASS) — Oleg Lobov, Secretary of the Russian Security Council, the Russian President's envoy in the Chechen republic, disagrees with the opinion that a "prewar" situation is now forming in Chechnya. He is of the opinion that an intensive effort is being exerted there to prevent the aggravation. "We must work persistently and professionally seeking peaceful ways to resolve the conflict in Chechnya," Lobov told journalists in the Government house on Thursday.

Lobov described the ambush of a Russian army convoy in the area of Vedeno on October 24 as a tragedy. He called for patience and for pondering on "the ways of preventing anything like this in future."

Ambushed by gunmen, 18 Russian servicemen were killed, eight wounded and eight taken hostage. In a statement circulated on Thursday, the press centre of the joint command of federal troops in Chechnya condemned this armed provocation of Dudayev units and warned local residents to stay away from the bases in the Vedeno and Nozhay-Yurt districts from which the attack on October 24 was made, in order to prevent civilian casualties.

Regarding peace talks in Chechnya, Lobov said that a greater number of participants will be involved in the negotiating process, which will not be swift, however. "We must have patience to advance step-by-step," Lobov said.

Regarding the recent appointment of Doku Zavgayev to the post of chairman of the National revival government of Chechnya, Lobov said that there will be no problems about coordinating actions between the federal authorities and local authorities in the Chechen republic.

"The fact that Zavgayev has good contacts with the opposition in Chechnya will promote settlement as Chechens should first achieve accord and then conduct the negotiations with the federal authorities from the common stand."

Lobov believes Zavgayev's striving to maintain contacts with Moscow is "favourable for himself, for Moscow and for the Chechen republic."

Commission Meeting Aspires Toward Peace

LD2510181995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1757 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — The federal and pro-Dudayev delegations agreed to resume the Special Observer Commission soon and continue peace talks at their working meeting in Groznyy Wednesday [25 October], Russia's chief negotiator Vyacheslav Mikhaylov told INTERFAX before leaving for Moscow.

According to Mikhaylov, the meeting "showed a mutual aspiration to settle the Chechnya crisis by exclusively peaceful means." The working meeting had been initiated by Russian negotiators and lasted for over three hours.

Mikhaylov pointed out the Chechen delegation's constructive position. The latest reshuffles in Chechnya's National Accord Committee and the national revival government had a positive impact on the negotiation process, he added.

The pro-Dudayev side took with much interest Moscow's proposal to discuss various options for a political treaty on Chechnya's status, power sharing between the republic and the center and other issues at the future talks.

The Russian delegation submitted to Chechen negotiators the main provisions of this document worked out by an expert group headed by deputy head of the Russian delegation Vladimir Zorin.

In particular, the talks will discuss several options for Chechnya's sovereignty based on experience of such relations with Tatarstan, Sakha (Yakutiya) and Bashkortostan.

Mikhaylov supposed that "misunderstanding about Moscow's true intentions" will be done away with as the new initiatives are made public.

"Moreover, we have proposed that consultants from these republics join the work," Mikhaylov added.

Mikhaylov Optimistic About Settlement

LD2510132495 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Russian and Chechen delegations at the talks on a peaceful settlement have chosen the venue for further talks between them. Both sides are happy with it but no details about its location have yet been released. Our special correspondent Vladimir Trushkovskiy reports on the latest from Chechnya.

[Trushkovskiy] Journalists have learned that Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, head of the government delegation at the Chechen talks, is expected to fly to Moscow today. He said in an interview that he is expected to attend a meeting at the Ministry for Affairs of Nationalities and Regional Policy on 26 October. The meeting will be devoted to problems experienced by the Cossack population.

Touching on the peace talks, Mikhaylov said that chances of achieving a peaceful settlement have increased significantly after the appointment of [Chechen Prime Minister] Doku Zavgayev. Mikhaylov also said that he is planning to hold a number of working meetings with Khozhakhmed Yarikhanov, head of the Chechen delegation. [passage omitted]

Zorin Expected To Be New Administrator

LD2510141795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — Russia's first deputy administrator in Chechnya Vladimir Zorin is expected to take fully in charge as head of the federal government's territorial management there soon.

President Boris Yeltsin is due to sign a decree on Zorin's new appointment in the next few days, a source close to the Russian delegation in peace talks in Groznyy told INTERFAX on Wednesday.

Zorin who led a working group of Russian experts in the Groznyy talks was appointed deputy chief negotiator last week. In the meantime, incumbent administrator in Chechnya Nikolay Semenov is to be relieved from his post because of being shifted to a new job, the source said.

Zavgayev's Replacement of Khadzhiyev Eyed

MM2610091095 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Mnatsakanyan: "Doku Zavgayev Has, as Expected, Been Restored to the Government of Ravaged Chechnya: Gantemirov's Police Killed Old Man While Breaking Up a Rally"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy — As expected, Umar Avturkhanov's resignation was accepted at the Chechen National Accord Committee [NAC] session 24 October. Lechi Magomadov (he was Avturkhanov's deputy) was elected committee chairman in his stead. The same NAC session endorsed the nomination of Doku Zavgayev, former speaker of the Chechen parliament during the Soviet era, to the post of chairman of the Government of National Revival. Salambek Khadzhiyev is transferring to work in the Russian Government, in Moscow.

Literally two hours after this Zavgayev, at a Supreme Council session held in the assembly hall of the present Government House, proposed that he should relinquish his duties as chairman of the Supreme Council as dual office holding is forbidden under the Constitution. Some deputies tried to push through a decision creating the post of head of the republic for Zavgayev and appointing Lechi Magomadov chairman of the government. However, Zavgayev's many years of experience in the apparatus carried the day. Deputy Mamed Asmayev was unanimously elected acting chairman of the Supreme Council.

Zavgayev is a native of Chechnya's Nadterechniy Rayon. He is an agricultural institute graduate and a candidate of economic sciences. In the seventies he switched to party work in Moscow and graduated from the CPSU Central Committee's Academy of Social Sciences, after which he became first secretary of the Communist Party's Chechen-Ingush Republic Oblast Committee and chairman of the Chechen-Ingush ASSR Supreme Soviet. Zavgayev heads the Department of

Social and Economic Problems of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff's Administration for Work with the Territories.

The session was pretty tense, as there are now two legislative organs in the republic — the Supreme Council and the Committee of National Accord, which has not, contrary to expectations, been dissolved. Over time they will, clearly, merge and make decisions together. But this has not happened yet: Each of the parliamentary structures will seek to demonstrate to those around them its indispensability and superiority.

Beslan Gantemirov, mayor of Groznyy, injected a lively note into the debate. He accused the Chechen-Ingush Supreme Soviet of having abandoned its people at a difficult moment and stressed that deputies who had sat things out in Moscow for four years had no moral right to lead the country.

Clearly, Gantemirov thinks that he does have this moral right and is doing a marvelous job. However, while the session was going on, a 5,000-strong rally demanding the withdrawal of Russian troops was being held on the square in front of the devastated presidential palace. The city police, who come under the personal command of its mayor, took appropriate measures — the rally was dispersed to the accompaniment of bursts of automatic weapon fire. One old man among those taking part in the rally was killed and another two were seriously wounded and taken to hospital.

Postscript: Answering an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question on 24 October about how the situation might develop in Chechnya after the cadre changes in the republic's leadership and specifically Doku Zavgayev's election as government leader, Viktor Chernomyrdin laconically replied: "Everything will be normal."

Zavgayev Comments on 'Legal Authorities'

*LD2510145895 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1334 GMT 25 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — Doku Zavgayev has said that now that Salambek Khadzhiyev and Umar Avturkhanov have resigned, legal authorities have been restored in Chechnya. They were overthrown in a government coup staged by Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Zavgayev told a news conference in Groznyy that his appointment as Prime Minister heralded a new phase of settling the Chechen crisis by juridical means.

Chechnya's new leaders have renamed the Government of National Revival as the Government of the Chechen Republic.

Zavgayev said the Government of the Chechen Republic which he became the head of on Tuesday was going to act in compliance with the laws of the Russian Federation and the Constitution of the Chechen-Ingush Republic. Zavgayev had been the first Secretary of the Communist Party of the Chechen-Ingush Republic before Dudayev seized power.

Zavgayev said that political stability, civic accord and peace and economic recovery were his priority goals.

About negotiations between the Russian authorities and Dudayev's supporters Zavgayev said that they must be gradually transformed into inter-Chechen talks, because a future settlement in Chechnya is a purely internal affair and nobody must meddle in it.

Zavgayev said that the new authorities in Chechnya would cooperate with all political and social forces irrespective of their political preferences.

Zavgayev promised he would hold elections as soon as possible. He remarked that Dudayev's supporters were not a real political force capable of influencing the situation in the republic.

Zavgayev on Plans To Create Jobs

*LD2510122895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1131 GMT 25 Oct 95*

[By Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — New Chechen premier Doku Zavgayev said Chechnya was a "republic of total unemployment" and added that he plans to revive the Soviet-era programme of developing electronic industry to create new jobs.

The programme "solved a whole package of tasks, ensured the birth of technical intelligentsia which is very important taking into consideration the specifics of the republic", he told a press conference Wednesday.

Unemployment is "the generator of crime", the premier said adding that a one per cent growth in unemployment results in a seven per cent crime rate increase.

Zavgayev said he would instruct local administrators to submit a programme of creating new jobs in every village.

Volskiy Cited on Leadership Changes

MM2510161395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Igor Rotar: "'Purge' Moscow's Chechen Henchmen continues. Groznyy Mayor Is Next"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The government of Khadzhiyev and Avturkhanov was acceptable at a certain stage. New times have now come," was how Arkadiy Volskiy commented to IZVESTIYA on the resignation of the chairman of the government of national revival and the chairman of the committee of national revival of the Chechen Republic. In the opinion of the deputy leader of the Russian delegation a triarchy has formed in Chechnya: The territorial administration of the Russian Federation, the republic's government, and the apparatus of the Russian president's personal representative are operating simultaneously.

To rectify this situation it was necessary first of all to legitimize the Chechen Government. In Arkadiy Volskiy's opinion the election by Chechen deputies of the Chechen-Ingush Republic's Supreme Soviet, dissolved in 1991, of Doku Zavgayev, the speaker of that same parliament, as prime minister of the government has in part legitimized the republican power structures. Indeed, Arkadiy Ivanovich does not idealize the situation — let us recall that the powers of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republic deputies expire in five days — and in his talk with IZVESTIYA he stressed that the new organs of power are not entirely legal either but merely more legitimate than the previous ones.

But in Volskiy's opinion the triarchy will be eliminated under the new conditions. In every Chechen rayon it is planned to create a headquarters directly subordinate to the president's representative which will include representatives of the government, political movements (including Dudayev's supporters), and the elders. "This is the optimum option if Russia has decided to legalize the occupying authorities! Although of course Zavgayev is not Avturkhanov or Khadzhiyev and I personally have nothing against him," another active participant in the Chechen drama — Ruslan Khasbulatov — commented to IZVESTIYA on this plan.

The former speaker of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet does not conceal the fact that he intends to engage again in peacemaking activity in his small motherland. In Khasbulatov's opinion the reshuffles are not resolving the problem — power in Chechnya remains illegitimate. "The first thing to do at the talks is to raise the question of creating a coalition government which will be joined by representatives of all political forces, including Dudayev's supporters. We must sit the delegations' members down and not allow them to leave the premises until the have created such a government — that is a matter of three or four days. I am prepared to share my experience and to take part in the talks. The provisional government should operate until the elections, which must be held in about six months," Khasbulatov told IZVESTIYA.

"Among all politicians in Chechnya Khasbulatov has the highest rating. His experience could be very useful. But to ensure that he takes part in the talks the agreement of the Chechen side is needed — after all, you can understand for yourself that he cannot be part of the Russian delegation. As for the idea of creating a coalition government we have frequently — keeping it a secret from journalists — discussed this question with the Chechen delegation. But the question of Khadzhiyev and Avturkhanov has inevitably been a stumbling block. Dudayev's supporters did not want to deal with these people who in their opinion had come to power on Russian bayonets. Now a real hope has emerged of agreeing on the composition of the coalition government," Arkadiy Volskiy told IZVESTIYA.

But Avturkhanov and Khadzhiyev are by no means Moscow's only henchmen, whose very presence in the organs of power has drastically reduced the likelihood of success at the talks with Dudayev. No less odious is the figure of Groznyy Mayor Beslan Gantemirov. IZVESTIYA has already repeatedly written about this man. Formerly a commander of a large armed detachment which fought with the first Chechen president, Gantemirov to this day does not want to part with his martial past: He has united about 300 of his fighters into a municipal militia detachment — a kind of personal guard. The former gunman has frequently spoken against the talks with Dudayev's representatives and insisted on the continuation of fighting. Recently Gantemirov has not tired of voicing dissatisfaction with his recent Russian allies. "Russia, having begun the talks, has revived Dudayev with its own hands. How much longer will they play this base game with us! If we fight Russia many people from Dudayev's camp will come over to us. Very many of my former people are now fighting on Dudayev's side. If I head the resistance then the force on my side will be more formidable than Dudayev's!" Beslan Gantemirov told IZVESTIYA not so long ago.

On the day Doku Zavgayev was elected prime minister, Gantemirov again made his presence felt. The mayor's militiamen opened fire on a demonstration by Dudayev's supporters. Several people were wounded and one killed as a result. This tragedy will undoubtedly drastically heat the atmosphere in Groznyy and will enable Dudayev's supporters yet again to say that it is impossible to have talks with the occupying authorities that are perpetrating atrocities.

The shooting of demonstrators was one more weighty argument for the Groznyy mayor's numerous opponents who assert that Gantemirov is doing everything possible to destabilize the situation. Rumors are circulating persistently in the city to the effect that the series of acts of terrorism in Groznyy (the murder of the Chapanovs, a Chechen family, in early summer, and the attempts on Lobov and Romanov) are the work of Gantemirov. It is indicative that in their talks with your IZVESTIYA correspondent several members of the Russian delegation at the talks and the leaders of the territorial administration did not rule out this story. In the very near future Gantemirov will be obliged to travel to Moscow to give evidence in the case of the Chapanov family.

Despite the fact that the story of Gantemirov's involvement in acts of terrorism still remains just a story Moscow has firmly decided to get rid of the uncontrollable Groznyy mayor. The decision on Gantemirov's resignation has essentially already been made. "We realize full well that before sending Gantemirov into retirement we will have to disarm him. And in the very near future that is what we shall do!" IZVESTIYA was told by a source from the leadership of the territorial administration.

Alas, it is entirely possible that Gantemirov's resignation will not proceed as peacefully as the removal of Khadzhiyev and Avturkhanov. The vain and experienced gunman may not agree to lay down his arms voluntarily. Gantemirov, as Moscow is very well aware, has a considerable force behind him — a well armed, disciplined detachment in Groznyy and devoted gunmen in the mayor's motherland in Urus-Martanovskiy Rayon.

Avturkhanov Blames Russia for Tension

MK2510134095 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 42, 19-25 Oct 95 p 8

[Interview with Umar Avturkhanov, chairman of the National Reconciliation Committee of the Chechen Republic, by Aleksandr Trushin under the "First-Hand" rubric: "Avturkhanov Does Not See a Third Force" — first three passages are OBSHCHAYA GAZETA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last August the Russian leadership placed its bets on Chechnya's "healthy forces." The anti-Dudayev opposition headed by Umar Avturkhanov began receiving money, weapons, and equipment from Moscow. But when it was decided in the Russian capital that it would be easier to defeat Dudayev peacefully, the Chechen opposition found itself out in the cold. What was left for it at the negotiating table was the place of "the odd man out."

Recent shocking terrorist acts in Groznyy and a new heightening of tensions have given rise to talk about a third force that is disrupting the peace process. The hint is quite transparent: The "third" is the one who is "out."

Your OBSHCHAYA GAZETA correspondent managed to talk with Umar Avturkhanov, chairman of the National Reconciliation Committee of the Chechen Republic, on a mobile phone. This is his view on the goings-on in Chechnya.

[Avturkhanov] There is no third force here whatsoever! Who of us would benefit from staging attempts on Lobov's or Romanov's life? Romanov is my personal friend, an extremely decent person, who conscientiously fulfilled a mission entrusted to him. You'd best recall who has threatened everyone with terrorist acts since 1991, who continues to say that one should kill, blow things up, inflame the situation? Dudayev alone. Instead of thinking up a third force, look at who backs him in Moscow, to whom he sold weapons, oil, and rare-earth metals. Maybe his partners in the criminal business are precisely that same "third force."

[Trushin] Do you by any chance know the names of these "partners?"

[Avturkhanov] I am not crazy enough to name them on the phone. In addition, currently I have no ample evidence. But when the situation is stabilized, I will tell you their names.

[Trushin] What can you say about the charges of arms-trading leveled at Beslan Gantemirov by Basayev?

[Avturkhanov] I do not think that Beslan is engaged in that. Currently it is advantageous for Basayev to slander a person who is fighting against the Dudayev regime. Why trust a terrorist who has so much blood on his conscience?

[Trushin] Recently you have developed good relations with the command of the joint group of federal forces. Do you know who ordered the recent bombardment of villages?

[Avturkhanov] Dudayev was staying in Roshni-Chu two hours before the air raid. Evidently, this was the reason for bombing the village. We are indignant not only at the bombardment itself, but also at the fact that the aircraft turned out to be "unidentified." The prosecutor's office of the Chechen Republic has initiated a criminal action. We shall wait for the results of the investigation, which will show who is to be held responsible for that.

[Trushin] Still, what do you think are the reasons for the heightening of tensions in Chechnya?

[Avturkhanov] The lack of foresight, ill-conceived actions, and mistakes on the part of Russian politicians. The agreement on the package of military questions includes a provision on village protection detachments. Maskhadov exploited it. He says: We do not recognize the law-enforcement agencies foisted on Chechnya by Moscow, we will set up our own detachments. They are made up of those same fighters, only their numbers will increase. This is how they were given employment by Russian diplomats — Mikhaylov, Volskiy, and Kulikov — whose signatures are attached to the agreement.

[Trushin] It seems that no other region has changed so many governments, parliaments, leaders over the past five years as Chechnya. Now all the "former" leaders are returning to the political scene. Can a new republic be created with their assistance?

[Avturkhanov] Everything depends on the aims with which they return. If they are only driven by a desire to come to power again, there will be no peace and accord. If they are interested in restoring our republic, there is a place and job for everyone.

[Trushin] There has been much talk about corruption in the Khadzhiyev government. Distrust in it has manifested itself in the fact that the Russian Government is allocating funds for the restoration effort mostly to federal agencies, not the local authorities. Probably there must be reasons for such distrust?

[Avturkhanov] I doubt that. Generally speaking, we have received only one-third of the 450 billion rubles we requested from the federal government. The restoration of Groznyy proceeds very slowly. There have been many promises, but they are unlikely to come true before the winter. Imagine how people are depressed by that! Meanwhile, we want to work, we need to create a normal life here. We alone, the Chechens, can do that. One only needs to comply with everything that has been agreed.

Yarikhanov Interviewed on Talks

LD2510145395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — A working meeting between the delegation of federal authorities and Dudayev's supporters in Groznyy Wednesday is not an official resumption of the negotiation process, head of the Chechen delegation Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov said in an interview with INTERFAX. He noted that this does not mean that the Special Observer Commission has officially resumed its work either.

According to Yarikhanov, Chechnya expressed the wish for the presence of international supervisors and UN peacekeeping forces, which would guarantee a ceasefire, as a condition for resuming official talks.

At the same time Yarikhanov said that Dudayev's supporters are ready to consider any variants on guarantees to stop hostilities. However, Russia "has not presented any proposals until now and has not given any answer to this provision," he said.

Russia's Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhaylov headed the federal authorities delegation at the three-hour working meeting, Chechen rebel commander Aslan Maskhadov was present in the delegation of Dudayev's supporters.

In the course of discussion, Yarikhanov said, the parties confirmed their striving to continue the negotiation process and their adherence to a peaceful settlement of the Chechen crisis.

Interior Ministry Begins Nazran Raid Investigation

LD2510190495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1823 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov on Wednesday [25 October] said that law enforcement bodies have launched investigation into Tuesday's raid of presumably Russian commandos on the Sleptsovsk airport in Ingushetia's capital, Nazran.

Kulikov is currently attending a meeting of heads of the Interior Ministries of the CIS countries in the Armenian capital.

According to the minister, the Interior Ministry has already sent its investigators to Nazran.

Earlier today, the Federation Council, upper house of the Russia legislature, announced it was setting up a special commission and ordered the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation to investigate into the Sleptsovsk incident.

On Tuesday, one person was killed and six were wounded when a group of unidentified commandos attacked the Sleptsovsk airport on the Ingush border with rebel Chechnya, and opened fire inside the airport building.

According to Ingush Vice-President Boris Agapov, they were apparently misguided by false information that the airport had been seized by Chechen separatist fighters.

Speaking to ITAR-TASS on Wednesday, officials at the Interior Ministry cited their sources in the command of federal troops in Chechnya as insisting that at least commandos of the Interior troops "had nothing to do with the incident in the airport."

TASS has learnt from informed sources that for the past few days a number of seemingly reliable reports came from informers to Russia's Defence and Interior Ministries and Federal Security Service, saying that Chechen fighters had planned to evacuate abroad some of their commanders wounded in recent shootouts with federal troops. Informers insisted that it had been planned to evacuate them on October 24 via the Sleptsovsk airport.

It is still to be found out whether it was a thoroughly organised misinformation or the operation was suddenly canceled due to some unknown reasons, the source said.

Ministry Denies Involvement

LD2510194795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1739 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The special subunits of the Interior Ministry have nothing to do with the incident at Ingushetia Airport. The Russian MVD [Interior Ministry] told an ITAR-TASS correspondent of this today, citing information from the federal forces command in Khankala.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent found out from informed sources that supposedly quite reliable information had started to reach Internal Affairs bodies, the special services, and Defense Ministry subunits over the past few days through various channels about the intention of Chechen illegal armed formations to evacuate via Ingushetia Airport a number of prominent Dudayevites who had been wounded in gun battles with the federal forces in Chechnya.

Either this was a previously planned and, in the event, a successfully executed piece of disinformation for provocative ends, or it was an operation that really had been intended by the fighters but for some reason did not take place on 24 October, the source pointed out. The answer to this question now has to be found during the investigation into the circumstances of the incident, which has had great repercussions among the public.

Colonel-General Anatoliy Kulikov told the meeting of CIS interior ministers in Yerevan today that the relevant instruction had been issued to the Russian MVD. At the same time, Federation Council deputies in Moscow created a commission to check the facts set out in a statement by Ingushetia's president, Ruslan Aushev, and instructed the Russian prosecutor general to conduct an investigation into the events at the airport near the Ingush village of Sleptsovskaya.

Ingushetia Demands Criminal Punishment

LD2610115195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 26 Oct 95

[By Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NAZRAN October 26 (ITAR-TASS) — The parliament of the Russian republic of Ingushetia demanded criminal punishment to those who ordered a raid of commandos on the "Ingushetia" airport on Tuesday in which one person was killed and five wounded.

The parliament, which held an emergency session on Thursday, qualified the incident as "another provocation against the republic of Ingushetia" and said it was "aimed at unleashing a big war in the south of Russia".

The legislature demanded in a resolution that "power ministers", i.e. the heads of the Defence, Security and Interior departments, report to the national parliament on the incident and that the legislature send its own commission for an objective investigation of the incident.

Police investigators had already been sent to clarify the incident.

On Tuesday commandos arrived in helicopters to the airport on a false report about the seizure of the facility by Chechen terrorists and opened indiscriminate fire killing one and wounding five civilians.

According to Ingushi vice-president Boris Agapov, he tried for several hours to convince Moscow authorities and the military that nobody was seizing the airport. Nevertheless, the commandos did arrive.

"This was not the first case of an attack on the airport. Thus, early this year a helicopter with Russian markings fired on a passenger plane parked in the 'Ingushetia' airport", the parliament said in the statement.

Lawmakers qualified the airport incidents, as well as air raids on Russian border posts in the mountains of Ingushetia, which borders on Chechnya, "as provocations aimed at unleashing a big war in the south of Russia".

Chechen-Ingush Plans to Reunite Alleged

LD2510150395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 25 (INTERFAX) — Chairman of the Judicial and Legal Affairs committee of the Federation Council (upper house of the Russian parliament), Isa Kostoyev, has accused Chechnya's new leaders of plans to unite Chechnya and Ingushetia.

Kostoyev was speaking in the Federation Council earlier today. He linked those plans with Tuesday's incident in the airport of the Sleptsovskaya community (Ingushetia). One person was killed and two others injured at the local airport as a Russian assault group stormed it by mistake.

Kostoyev believes that this was done deliberately to drag the Ingush republic into the Chechen massacre.

He described the events in Sleptsovskaya as "deliberate and conscious provocation designed to trigger armed clashes in another member-republic of Russia."

Before 1991 Chechnya and Ingushetia were one Chechen-Ingush autonomy. Chechnya became a separate republic in 1991, when Dzhokhar Dudayev rose to power. The Ingush republic was proclaimed a member of Russia in 1992.

Chechnya's new Prime Minister Doku Zavgayev led the last Supreme Soviet (legislature) of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

Delegation Arrives in N. Ossetia To Settle Problems

LD2510193095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1129 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladikavkaz, 25 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Members of a working group on the problem of clearing up the aftermath of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, which took place in October-November 1992, arrived in the capital of North Ossetia from Moscow today. In accordance with the instruction given by President Yeltsin, the group is instructed to prepare and to submit for the consideration of the government in a two-week period a draft resolution on ensuring the implementation of measures relating to clearing up the aftermath of the events which took place three years ago. What is under discussion is construction and reconstruction work, repatriation of forced migrants and refugees and providing them with housing and work, public security and the protection of citizens and vitally important installations.

Vladimir Lozovoy, chairman of the Provisional State Committee for Elimination of the Aftermath of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, is the head of the working group. North Ossetia was represented by Yuriy Biragov, chairman of the government, and the Ingush Republic was represented by Mukharbek Didigov, chairman of the government.

Meanwhile, according to military sources, the operational situation remains relatively stable in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict.

Plant Refuses To Supply Parts For MiG-31 Fighters

LD2510222195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1944 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Leonid Bagdatyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PERM, The Urals, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — The Permskiye Motory (Perm engines) company has refused to sign a contract with the Russian Defence Ministry on production of spares and maintenance instruments for engines of MiG-31 fighters, because of ministry's huge debt.

Although 14 per cent of the company's shares belong to the state, the Defence Ministry is its major debtor. For instance, the plant still fails to receive 18 billion roubles for its order of last December.

Customers' overall debt to the company surpassed a 100-billion-rouble mark, and Permskiye Motory announced that it shifted to three working days a week and halted some production lines including that of famous Proton space boosters.

As a result, over 1,000 workers are to lose their jobs.

Only shops making engines for civil aviation and gas pumping stations will work according to their regular schedule, since their product has already been paid for by customers.

Economic Issues

President's Edicts Supporting Enterprises Viewed

MK2410151895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Elmar Murtazayev: "Boris Yeltsin Gives Support to 'Rosselmash' and Closes Down 'Roseltrans.' The State 'Gives a Dire Warning' to State Holding Companies 'Unwilling To Work Efficiently'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The authorities are trying to make state support for Russia's major manufacturers more effective. On 17 October, President Boris Yeltsin signed an edict on the support of the "Rosselmash" corporation and, on 19 October, another one: on the elimination of the "Roseltrans" state holding company. At a news conference, Aleksandr Livshits, aide to the president for economics, commented on the edicts by describing them as "unusual and urgent."

The "Rosselmash" joint-stock company used to monopolize and still is monopolizing the production of combine grain harvesters. Termed "an economy battleship" by the president's aide, "Rosselmash" is now unsurpassed in the amount of subsidies and soft credits earmarked to support it. Despite this, however, "Rosselmash," in crisis even now, demands another infusion of state subsidies be made. In what appears to be an attempt to put an end to the practice of actually unlimited crediting, the government came out with an agreement with the enterprise management and the Rostov Oblast administration. According to Mr. Livshits, in exchange for support, the government "can and is obliged to set favorable conditions." The plan envisions setting up a special commission with the participation of the president, a number of federal agencies (the Economics Ministry, the Finance Ministry, the Federal Directorate for Bankruptcy, and the Agriculture Ministry), the oblast's administration, and the enterprise management. Mr. Livshits added modestly that he himself will act as presidential spokesman for the commission.

The support will be given step by step and will not be limited to direct credits, Mr. Livshits said. Other options may include the Finance Ministry's guarantees of western credit repayment and support of export-oriented enterprises. Each new piece of support will depend on the fulfillment of the earlier commitments by the enterprise. The commission will also decide on "Rosselmash's" financial, organizational, and personnel issues.

The president's aide declined to comment on the effectiveness of the innovation, saying, however, that many other Russian "battleships" have already submitted their requests for a similar status.

The situation with the "Roseltrans" holding company is different. This company was established two and a half years ago through the sale of shares at a number of state enterprises. In Mr. Livshits' view, however, in the last two years, no financial or investment changes have occurred in the enterprises incorporated into the holding company. Guided by this reason, the president "found it necessary," as Mr. Livshits said, to eliminate the holding company. The president's aide perceives the president's decision as "a dire warning" to all Russian holding companies that are not striving for radical changes in critical situations at enterprises. At the news conference, Mr. Livshits advised that the enterprises earlier incorporated in the holding company make another attempt of forming a similar structure, pointing out, however, that the enterprises need to implement these initiatives at their own expense.

Livshits on Failure of Production-Sharing Law

LD2510182295 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Federation Council yesterday turned down the law on production-sharing agreements.

Aleksandr Livshits, adviser to the Russian president, said that electioneering was to blame here. Our correspondent has asked him to comment on the consequences of this step.

[Begin Livshits recording] After all, it is not just that this law brings Russia into the family of civilized countries. What is the damage, to use an oft-repeated phrase? The damage here is approximately $7 billion worth of investments a year.

Seven billion dollars is a sum that is greater than the entire IMF credit. Moreover, ready projects tied to this money are already in existence. These are several projects in Sakhalin, the Timan-Pechora deposit, the Priobskoye, and others.

An altogether unprecedented thing has happened recently — those in charge of the world's largest petroleum companies, including Shell, Texaco, Chevron, and several dozen others, sent a collective letter, just like a work force would; well, the labor collective of the world's oil business sent a letter to President Boris Yeltsin concerning precisely this law. It is simply that nothing like this has ever happened before.

We can like or dislike foreign entrepreneurs and foreign businessmen, it is up to us, we are no longer bound to have the same beliefs, comrade-like, but let us ponder the consequences for Russia. Finally, it is simply that people live there — they will have jobs, wages, steady employment, a normal life. If this venture fails, it will mean that 7 billion will have to be forked out.

Well, if we are that rich, let us fork it out. If, however, we are not, let us attract this money. [end recording]

New State Savings Loan Bonds To Be Issued

MM2510164295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Maksim Zarezin: "Our Wealth in Bonds Will Grow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The profit from savings loan bonds can only increase. As long as inflation does not decline.

A press conference has been held at the Russian Ministry of Finances devoted to the start of the issue of the second series of state savings loan bonds as of 27 October this year. In the opinion of Ministry of Finances leaders the results of the issue of the first series of the new type of state bond aimed at the population were more than successful and the demand, as predicted, proved steadily high so it was decided a month later to embark on the issue of a second series. In all by 1998 it is planned to issue 10 series.

The size of the revenue on the first, subscription, period which, as we know, is three months, has also been determined. The interest rate is calculated in accordance with the return on other bonds and proceeding from this criterion should be 92.13 percent per annum. But to make the loan more attractive the Ministry of Finances has decided to institute a 5-percent bonus so that the interest on the first subscription of bonds of the second series will be 97.13 percent per annum.

What then? Andrey Kazmin, deputy minister of finances, stressed that the state is merely confirming the return which has taken shape on the market in accordance with the president's edict. It can only increase, as has happened for the first subscription of the second series of the loan. The interest rate will decline only if the pace of inflation decreases in the country and no arbitrary decisions should be feared here. It is another matter that the banks which have received the right to issue bonds will take a certain commission when buying them but as the Ministry of Finances representatives observed, bankers' appetites are becoming more moderate.

Minimum Pension Size To Be Indexed Monthly

MK2510133995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[SEGODNYA report: "The Senate Proposes That Pensions Be Raised Monthly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, the Federation Council passed the law "On a Rise in the Minimum Pension Size, the Indexation Procedure, and Recalculation of State Pensions," in accordance with which the minimum old-age pension will amount to 57,750 rubles [R] a month from 1 November 1995; R60,500 from 1 December 1995; and R63,250 from 1 January 1996. Thus, the senators propose that pensions be indexed every month, instead of once in three months as was envisioned by the previous law. In addition, the Federation Council approved the candidacies of two judges at the Arbitration Court — Tatyana Neshatoyeva and Beksultan Seynaroyev.

IEA Reports on 'Hidden' Unemployment

LD2510174795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1526 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Liliya Kuznetsova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (ITAR-TASS) — The number of unemployed in Russia has reached 2.2 million people, a 1.3-time increase since the beginning of the year, according to the Federal Employment Service. It means that the army of officially registered "redundant labour" on the Russian market accounts for 3 percent of the country's economically active population.

Experts of the Institute of Economic Analysis (IEA), however, believe that the main danger stems not from the intensive growth of "open" unemployment but from the rapid expansion of the so-called "hidden" unemployment.

According to the State Committee for Statistics, 5.8 million people, or almost 8 percent of the economically active population, are looking for a job even though they have not yet registered as unemployed with the employment service. The country also has more than 3.5 million partially unemployed people. Added together, these figures show that the army of unemployed now consists of more than 9 million, or over 12 percent of the country's economically active population.

It should be kept in mind that the figures cited in official statistics and those presented by independent experts differ greatly. According to IEA experts, about 13 million people, or 17 percent of Russia's economically active population, were partially unemployed at the beginning of 1995. Some of them were officially listed as being on involuntary "unpaid leaves" or "working part-time."

The situation on the labour market somewhat improved last spring following the "softening" of the monetary policy and stabilisation of the volume of production. Against that economic background, the unemployment growth rate decreased notably in May and June 1995.

According to IEA experts, the official number of unemployed grew by a mere 7,000 in May and 10,000 in June. But the subsequent toughening of the budget and monetary policy whipped up the unemployment growth rate again. From July, the number of unemployed increased by 45,000 to 55,000 every month. In September, the aggregate level of unemployment reached 8 percent (in terms of the International Labour Organisation), or 3 percent (in terms of the State Committee for Statistics). Either figure implies a serious load for the state whose economy is in a critical condition.

In 1995, the average duration of unemployment increased. For young people aged between 16 and 30, it amounts to less than 6 months. For disabled people, elder people, refugees and involuntary migrants, it is much longer.

The levels of unemployment differ in different regions of the country. In Russia as a whole, there are some five unemployed per each vacancy, while there are 400 jobless per each vacancy in Ingushetia and around 80 in the Invanovo region.

The problem of job placements is a major headache in the Komi and Koryak autonomous areas, in the Kalmyk and Daghestan republics, and in the Pskov, Bryansk, Vladimir and Sakhalin regions.

Moscow appears to be in a much better situation: unemployment in it amounts to a mere 0.4 percent. Experts believe it is due to the fact that Moscow has advanced farther than any other region in the process of transition to a market economy.

Low Winter Fuel Stocks Levels Viewed

MM2510102295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Rustam Arifdzhanov: "We Shall Warm Ourselves in Winter with Power Workers' Enthusiasm"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Credit money for the power workers to buy fuel for the winter has just started to arrive from the center. Rationally this should have been done back in April. In previous years "winter" money at least came in the summer. They have evidently decided to make this year an entirely experimental one.

Each of us on entering his own apartment first turns on "something electric." We have a lot to turn on. And as a rule we pay at the end of the month. We are essentially given credit by the electric power workers. And they should be given credit by the government. This is how this system ends: Whereas last year the state owed the power workers about 14 trillion rubles [R] today the Russian people owe them R35 trillion. Of course the Motherland and the people believe that the power workers have gone too far. Who likes to repay debts?

But as a result before the winter only 80 percent of the government target for fuel stocks have been laid in and only 70 percent of the amount of equipment that should have been repaired has been repaired. The government sets a target but it has to be fulfilled with a consideration for the experience of the Communist Youth League construction sites — on the basis of enthusiasm. At the electric power stations there is a shortfall of 0.5 million tonnes of coal and 3.5 million tonnes of fuel oil. There is no money. How shall we keep warm? Stocks were usually enough through mid-November. But this year there will scarcely be enough through the beginning of the last month of fall.

And now financial experts say that credit has finally begun to "trickle in." But that verb can also be understood in the most literal sense. Of the promised R1.1 trillion only R188 billion has been received. Slightly more than 10 percent. So we shall freeze before winter.

It is worst of all for the Northerners. Navigation is almost ended for them. So far not enough coal and fuel oil have been brought in. There was nothing with which to buy it. The Far East is in a bad way as regards coal — Sakhalin, Khabarovsk, and Magadan have not accumulated stocks for their electric power stations. Traditionally things are bad as regards fuel oil in the Northwest of the country. Last year's Arkhangelsk accident when the temperature had to be reduced in the heating networks does not seem to have taught us anything. At the time the power workers got out of the situation and it was all right. They forgot about it until winter. But as a result there are no stocks of fuel oil at all at the Arkhenergo heat and electric power station (indeed, there are no coal stocks here either) and at the Kirishi state regional electric power station. The situation is the same at the Konakovo state regional electric power station and in Kostroma and Ryazan....

The only hope rests with gas, which makes up nearly 40 percent of the "ration" of the country's electric power stations. But gas is not only the power workers' hope, it is their misfortune. "Gazprom" is indexing prices for its product every month. For instance, in October gas costs 12 percent more than in September. The federal energy commission for charges meets once a quarter. Gas is increasing in cost yet payment for energy remains the same for a while. Naturally, the electric power stations begin to operate at a loss. The increase in prices for gas was understandable when month after month there was an increase in the dollar exchange rate but now Chernomyrdin's government, having restrained and stabilized the dollar, has introduced 30 percent excise levies without considering value-added tax and special tax. "Gazprom" has been obliged by agreement with the government to raise the price especially as its stabilization fund has been taken away from it — anxious to increase the budget revenue the government has in fact transferred these expenses to the consumer. That is to you and me....

But Igor Novozhilov, chief of a department at the Russian Ministry of Fuel and Energy, is nonetheless firmly convinced that we shall survive the winter. People have learned to work under extreme conditions. The

Siberians can rest assured that they have Vladimir Zubkov, a strong leader of the unified power grid. Valeriy Rodin in the Urals and the Vyatka region's Viktor Kartsev will not let people down. "As always," Novozhilov said, "People will not let us down. The equipment will not let us down. As long as there is fuel."

We have been muddling through the winters on the basis of the power workers' enthusiasm. We shall muddle through this one too. In order again to forget it all until the next cold spell?

International Affairs

Kuchma Arrives in Brazil on Official Visit

LD2510211695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BRASILIA, Oct 25 (Interfax) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma arrived in Brazil on an official visit Wednesday.

The Ukrainian leader will sign an agreement on friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries and a number of bilateral agreements in Brasilia on October 25.

Kuchma is also expected to meet with Brazil President Fernando Enrique Cardoso.

Presidents Sign Friendship Treaty

LD2510235995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2249 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Kurguzov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia 26 Oct — Presidents Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Leonid Kuchma have signed a friendship and cooperation treaty aimed at developing multilateral political, trade, economic and cultural ties between Brazil and Ukraine. The treaty was signed here on Wednesday as a result of the Ukrainian president's official visit to Brazil. The governments of the two countries have also signed agreements on trade and economic cooperation and on visa-free entry for holders of official and diplomatic passports and a protocol on consultations to be held between the foreign ministries of the two countries. At a news conference held on Wednesday Kuchma expressed his satisfaction with the results of the talks which, in his opinion, will help to strengthen mutual understanding and develop various forms of cooperation between Ukraine, Brazil, and other Latin American countries.

He stressed that Ukraine plans to diversify its relations with Brazil and in its relations with the continent it will give priority to Brazil as a major country and one of the region's most developed ones. Ukraine proposed that Brazil would buy its carrier rockets, L. Kuchma reported. Up until now Ukraine's relations with the outside world were conducted via Moscow, and now its major goal is to have these links directly, L. Kuchma stressed. After the official part of the visit he will go to Sao Paulo and Curitiba where he will meet representatives of the Ukrainian community and then continue his tour of the South American countries - Argentina and Chile.

Marchuk Previews Nov Talks With Russia's Chernomyrdin

LD2510220595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1846 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk said Ukraine intended to raise problems associated with the implementation of a free trade treaty at talks with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin planned for November. Experts will soon begin discussing the problem.

"The treaty on free trade with Russia exists de jure but de facto there is no such regime on the part of Russia," Marchuk said.

IF Note: Marchuk said at a meeting with Finance Minister of Netherlands Gerrit Zalm that Russia had withdrawn from the treaty about 200 groups of goods. "Ukraine currently suffers losses of $1.5 billion because Russia fails to respect the free trade regime and has tightened customs procedures regarding delivery of export supplies to Ukraine," he said.

"Ukraine will have to apply appropriate measures towards Russia if it fails to change its attitude towards the treaty on free trade," Marchuk said.

Marchuk described such measures as "unpopular."

"This is not so much in line with the memorandum signed between Ukraine and the IMF," he said. "However, we will have no other choice," Marchuk said.

Marchuk made it clear that Ukraine might withdraw a number of commodity groups from the treaty.

He said he hoped that Ukraine and Russia would agree on this problem during his talks with Chernomyrdin.

Marchuk said he had discussed briefly with Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets the non-implementation of the treaty on free trade by Russia. Marchuk and Soskovets met in Cartagena (Colombia) where the Non-Aligned Movement held a summit last week.

Russian Ambassador Views Bilateral Relations

WS2610095095 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 21 Oct 95 p 3

[Interview with Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Leonid Yakovich Smolyakov, by Larysa Ostrolutska; place and date not given: "There Should Not Be an Impression

That We Can Do Without Each Other" — first paragraph is DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The Russian ambassador to Ukraine comments on Ukrainian-Russian relations, problems of and prospects for cooperation.**

[Ostrolutska] Leonid Yakovich, our foreign ministers's working meeting has obviously been triggered by some specific need, has it not?

[Smolyakov] Yes, this need is the fact that both sides want to continue cooperation. To avoid a vacuum in negotiations, the impression that we can do without each other, the natural development of our relations envisages a permanent dialogue. Each sides follows it own path, but we have an interest in integration, particularly in the integration of our ideas, in drawing up our positions regarding the ensuring of our joint interests. The other thing is that, as you see, implementation is going slowly; occasionally, some issues are misunderstood. But I believe that we agree that, undoubtedly, our main strategic line is cooperation, friendship, and interaction. As regards the filling of these concepts with real content, this is the subject of negotiations between our ministers, heads of state, and our presidents. [as published] This is thorough and somewhat boring work. Some want everything done quickly, and this is understandable from the view of an ordinary individual. But tolerance, tolerance, tolerance, and, in addition, mutual respect are required. Naturally, there are difficult issues, for example, the problem of dividing the Black Sea Fleet. This is a sore point, it is in the center of attention of both states.

It is understandable that one wants to see some results now, but the process itself is also a result, because when there are no negotiations, the people move to different "apartments." Therefore, the diplomats' task is to maintain a constructive dialogue. The Sochi agreements are a basis for this dialogue. Truth be told, some want to criticize these agreements. I, however, believe that these agreements are the basis on which one should rely; simply speaking, topics require clarification by each of the parties.

Many foreign political moves by our countries have a joint basis and joint interests. They also include the resolving of international conflicts, I imply the Bosnian conflict and general problems of former Yugoslavia. Consultations on these issues are necessary and they are going on. Naturally, there are specific attempts to draw some delineating lines in Europe. This, however, should not be done. After all, delineating lines move countries apart. As regards us, we are striving toward the ideology of integration. Therefore, if we see any Ukrainian attempt to move away from Russian initiatives — I do not want to get into specifics — such Ukranian behavior causes anxiety on our part; and then we speak about this during our meetings and in the press. Perhaps someone raises such issues in a tougher way, from, perhaps, specific party positions. This is understandable, both we and you have never been naive in politics. There will always be someone who will use the lack of understanding in our relations, will there not? If this so, this fact should be considered and not dramatized. Foreign policy is the business of the president and the Foreign Ministry, so if political forces engage themselves in it, this will only cause political trouble. We are not in a vacuum: Public opinion, the Ukrainian Supreme Council, and the Duma in the Russian Federation also affect us and this should be considered. Sometimes, the Ukrainian side expresses the following opinion: We cannot resolve this issue because someone in the legislature will oppose it. But you should negotiate with your legislature, as we do with the State Duma, and try to persuade deputies. There is no another way of resolving the situation! It is possible to justify onself by claiming that some processes exist, and we must consider them.... For example, there is a sore point — the Duma statement on persecution of Russians in Sevastopol.

[Ostrolutska] Perhaps this is one of cases when everything is given up to politics.

[Smolyakov] We in the embassy also cannot be neutral as regards the Duma statement; there are tough words; there is even the statement that such developments challenge the Russian people.... It is said too sharply, but why should the other side make its charges.... The embassy requested the Sevastopol Prosecutor's Office to provide an answer regarding the charges against the Russian community. But we have been turned down; they said we had to wait until the trial is over. I think that this is not an element of friendly relations. But I hope that in the immediate future I will go to Sevastopol to listen to those who broght the charges and to representatives of the Russian community. By the way, we have heard that they have likely been charged with rendering assistance to our consular group. But is this a criminal case? Why is it not possible to assist a consular group that fulfills public functions — provides consulting services and helps citizens? The same work is performed by our consular offices in Kiev and by General Consular offices in Odessa and Lvov. It is useless to politicize all these things, because a normal diplomatic process is going on. It is known that things cast a shadow on our mood in negotiations, and on your mood as well. You see some elements of an unfriendly attitude toward you. We regard this as a special demonstration of independence. Naturally, no one encroaches on your state independence. But you see, there are borders and degrees of demonstrating this. On the one hand, commitment to the Russian market, the Russian economy, and in general to the Russian people is declared, but in practice there is a too passive attitude toward one or another manifestation of anti- Russian sentiments in Ukraine, particularly in the press. In general, I must tell you that it is difficult to work in Ukraine. We are overloaded with problems, I imply primarily myself as ambassador and the entire embassy. There are quite a few of us: some 10-15 diplomats, but our relations are obviously one of the most tense in bilateral relations, because here we have a legacy of past problems. All this is difficult. I have only been practicing diplomacy for four years; I am not a professional diplomat, but I have fully felt what a difficult school of political and human relations it is. I became a diplomat unexpectedly: I encountered the plane of practical interaction of states, politicians, and political structures, and I must tell you that this is an interesting but a very complicated thing.

[Ostrolutska] It is obvious that our embassy in Moscow also has difficult times....

[Smolyakov] Yes, naturally, but your situation is somewhat easier, because you have proper material facilities and some 80- odd people on the staff. As regards us, there are very few of us.... Naturally, we will expand. We are going to open an embassy soon. As regards the embassy, not all issues are yet clear.... This is, however, a trifle.

[Ostrolutska] We have many examples: As soon as we estrange from one another due to a lack of understanding, the vacuum is filled with other relations.

[Smolyakov] We proceed not from a lack of understanding, but from understanding. Naturally, if there is vacuum, a good position... never stands vacant. Nature does not like a vacuum, the same refers to both human relations and politics. Someone can take advantage of such a vaccum by trying to widen the cleft in relations between politicians and states. This is reality and we are concerned about it.

You, as a state, have the right to talk to other states, and we do not respond painfully to these dialogues with other states, other unions, either world or European. We do not react jealously. This is more typical of the Ukrainian side. Although various types of "demonstrations" could trigger some corresponding measures on our part. It is difficult to foresee who is more reasonable. History, however, will provide the proof.

No one has recipes — scientifically proved ahead of time — for resolving our problems. There are classic forms of diplomacy; there are classic forms of behavior; there is simply common sense. Sometimes it is better to be guided by common sense.

For example, the division of the fleet is not a scientific subject. There is no such subject either in science or practice. But we must divide the fleet. This issue needs much time, requires sizable preparatory draft efforts, man-days, man-years, if you like.... I still.... That is, I have already mentioned this, but I still cannot see how in reality the problem of dividing the fleet can be resolved, but I hope....

Yevpatoria Station Assumes Guidance of Russian Satellites

WS2610102895 Lvov INFOBANK in English
0806 GMT 26 Oct 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV. The Ukrainian space observation station in Yevpatoria has taken over the guidance of two Russian satellites, the Granat and the Prognoz-2, which were launched as a part of the Russian Interbol program for the exploration of distant outer space. Infobank received this information from the deputy director general of Ukraine's National Space Agency, Valery Komarov. The Yevpatoria station is therefore now controlling the movements of three satellites (the two Russian satellites and the Ukrainian satellite Sich-1 which was launched into space on August 31). The agreement concerning the guidance of Granat and Prognoz-2 was signed by Ukraine's National Space Agency and the Russian Institute for Space Research. The latter chose not to engage the services of Russia's aerospace military forces due to their extremely high rates. For instance, Russia charged Ukraine one billion Russian rubles (approximately US $250,000,000) for 40 days of guiding the Sich-1. The same services in Ukraine, he said, were significantly less expensive. Mr. Komarov believes that this will allow Ukraine to make a profit by providing such services to foreign countries, the first example of which is the agreement with the Russian Institute for Space Research.

Mr. Komarov also said that in the second half of November Ukrainian-American agreement is expected to be signed regarding the use of Ukrainian rockets to launch satellites, equipment, and other loads into space within the framework of the US space program.

New Shipping Route To Connect Odessa, Varna, Poti

WS2610112495 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0157 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Odessa. Oct. 25 — A new shipping line will open soon connecting Odessa with ports in Varna, Bulgaria, and Poti, Georgia, the Black Sea Shipping Company's official Moryak newspaper reported Wednesday [25 October].

The announcement came as the result of ongoing discussions between the Bulgarian and Ukrainian Ministries of Transportation. Service will be approximately bimonthly and will focus on small scale freight shipment. The cargo will primarily be produce from Georgia, Russian and Ukrainian manufactured goods from Odessa, and Central European consumer items by way of Varna, the report said.

Prices are expected to be "at the market level," meaning around US$ 500 to move a 20-cubic-foot container from one port to another.

National Affairs

Shmarov Cited on Plans To Amend Military Doctrine

MK2610091495 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Aleksandr Koretskiy: "Ukraine Amending Military Doctrine. Kiev Begins To Understand Its Own Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukraine intends to make substantial amendments to its military doctrine, which does not correspond today to the political and military realities in the world as a whole and in Europe in particular, considerably changed since 1991. This was announced a few days ago by the country's Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov. Kiev has already begun reorganizing its present armed services. Some of them, the aerospace forces in particular, are expected to be curtailed significantly, including their ground facilities.

In Shmarov's words, the Defense Ministry and, primarily, the Ukrainian Army General Staff have been working for a fairly long time to improve the republic's military doctrine. Provisions included in it in 1991-1992 call for considerable amendments owing to the obviously changed environment around Ukraine, as well as because Kiev, in Shmarov's words, "is beginning to gain a more subtle understanding of its own policy." There has emerged a more than real threat of Ukraine's becoming a kind of buffer between NATO and "non-NATO," that is to say, between the West and Russia. Kiev can end this danger by only one method — siding with one of the parties.

This is precisely what Ukraine is trying very hard to avoid. So far, it has been coping with the task on the whole thanks not so much to a well-coordinated foreign and military policy as to a well-developed intuition. To all appearances, the current turbulent activity in Kiev to revise the military doctrine (and foreign policy, according to KOMMERSANT-DAILY's knowledge) is intended to put it on an ideologically adjusted and clearly formulated foundation. This, generally speaking, is quite logical — you cannot shape your defense policy without knowing your foreign policy priorities.

Another piece of news Shmarov gave was Ukraine's intention to cut its aerospace forces to a minimum. According to the Ukrainian military's latest estimates they will need, through the year 2000 (and during the first decade of the new century as well), a small orbital military grouping of not more than four or five vehicles. Beside that, the military do not exactly need the airfield for receiving "Buran" space vehicles specially built near Simferopol. A similar fate, judging from what the Ukrainian defense minister said, also awaits the so-called NITKA (Scientific Research Embarked Aircraft Training Simulator) set up back in the 1980's for training in aircraft-landing procedure on aircraft arrying cruisers, that were just built at that time. The Ukrainian Navy has no aircraft carriers today. More recently Moscow and Kiev have been conducting rather fruitful talks on the future of the unique facility (Russia repeatedly told Ukraine that it wanted to rent the facility), but the negotiations, like the Black Sea Fleet talks, are apparently deadlocked.

Crimean Military Facilities To Be Converted

LD2510155395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Crimea is one of the most militarized regions in Ukraine in terms of the number of military installations. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry is now drawing up a protocol, under which some of the military installations will either be handed over to the national economy or be used jointly by the military and civilian authorities.

First and foremost, this applies to the 5-km landing strip for the Buran rocket, with its tracking and landing systems, and to an aircraft training ground for practicing landings on destroyers, which Ukraine just does not have. Agreements say that the authorities on the peninsula will also acquire 16,000 hectares of former military land.

The only area as yet undecided is the holiday homes belonging to the Army. The defense minister has proposed that some of these be transferred to the privatization fund to bring in money to build housing for military personnel. A cut in the military space forces is also expected. In Soviet times, this unique center serviced up to 200 satellites. Today Ukraine has one satellite, SICH. There are some joint programs, including some with Russia, but the number of these is hardly ever going to reach that of days gone by, Valeriy Shmarov said, stressing that Crimea has so many of these regional installations that if steps are not taken in good time this could break the nation.

Cost of Closing Chernobyl Plant 'Underestimated'

LD2610082495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0746 GMT 26 Oct 95

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, October 26 (Itar-Tass) — Advanced production facilities for processing radioactive waste and worked-out nuclear fuel will be built in the Chernobyl zone, chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee on the Nuclear Power Industry Mikhail Umanets told a news conference late in the evening on October 25.

In the chairman's opinion, the territory "where 95 percent of radioactive waste concentrates", is most suitable for this purpose.

Umanets said that the main issue for Ukraine now is what to do with worked-out nuclear waste. He added that "this problem should be settled in the context of resolving the Chernobyl question as a whole".

"The Ukrainian president decided to close down the Chernobyl power plant till the year 2000. But the West is constantly manoeuvring and does not wish to make adequate steps," Umanets stressed.

He regards as underestimated the sum of 1.4 billion U.S. dollars, which the joint Ukrainian-American expert group confirmed as necessary for shutting off the nuclear station.

The committee chairman noted that if the plant is put out of operation, the republic will need another 400 million dollars to build high-voltage substations for Kiev and the region.

"Naturally, Ukraine will take care of itself, but this will stretch for many years. Our economic situation does not permit us to settle the Chernobyl problem in an hour," Umanets concluded.

Columnist Views 'Scandal' Around Russian Joint Venture

WS2510143395 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 20 Oct 95 p 3

[Article by Oleh Olenyuk: "'Uncle' Debt as a 'Haztranzyt' Shareholder"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Solzhenitsyn's question "How are we to reconstruct Russia?" has been transformed under Ukraine's circumstances into the following one: How are we to pay for Russian gas? As the beginning of the next year is nearing, there has again bobbed up a half-forgotten scandal regarding the creation of the "Haztranzyt" Russian-Ukrainian joint venture, which had to become one of Ukraine's concessions in exchange for Moscow's consent to restructure our debts.**

In principle, the Russian side had previously agreed to accept $1.4 billion worth of securities on account of the debt, which could give Russia the right to participate in the privatization of facilities in which it is interested. However, time has changed priorities: Russia's trust in immaterial securities was not so large as to allow us to pay off our debt with them. As a result, the 'Gazprom' Russian Stock Company put forward a new condition in March: to create a joint venture with authorized funding of $800 million and to furnish it with three gas pumping stations on the "Progress" gas pipeline, an unfinished segment of the Torzhok-Dolyna gas pipeline, as well as... with two of the largest underground gas reservoirs — Bohorodchanske and Bilche-Volytsko-Uherske.

At first glance, the idea is quite attractive: "Haztranzyt," created with parity between both sides, pumps Russian fuel abroad and makes a profit, of which 50 percent is left in Ukraine. However, already on the first day following the declaration of Russian intent, certain Ukrainian economists began to doubt the expediency of such a project, primarily due to the problem of parity. An independent foreign firm, charged by the Ukrainian Government with the task of evaluating the reservoirs, set their price at $10 billion, while the Russians "gave" less than one billion bucks for them.

Such discrepancies in the estimate of proposed contributions to the authorized fund led to a situation where — notwithstanding a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of 25 July, by which the government practically transferred the gas reservoirs to the joint venture — the process of the creation of "Haztranzyt" was stalled, at first due to an initiative of the Lvov Oblast Council, then due to the Ukrainian Government. The interests of both power structures were essentially different: The government decided to weigh everything once again, while the oblast council... "defended the national wealth from robbery." In actual fact, the flow of "defending" speeches by Lvovians carried a lot of dirt.

As is known, "noble gestures" toward Russia are even now considered a national disgrace in Lvov; it is also understandable that only an insane person can repay 1.5 billion worth of debt with 10 billion. However, it is also difficult not to "take into account" such a trifle as the content of one's own pocket. Here is where "problems" arise. The above-mentioned gas reservoirs are "hanging" on the balance sheet of the "Lvivtranshaz" regional enterprise. Transferring them to some joint venture or, "what is worse," handing full control over them to Ukrainian government officials is an irreversible loss (in terms of profits). Therefore, "to prevent any possible...," the Lvov Oblast Council "takes charge of the above-mentioned facilities," while the "Lvivtranshaz," without any consultations, adopted a whole package of agreements on the use of gas reservoirs by... little-known foreign companies, not even mentioning whose property it is disposing of.

Therefore, after a month, the idea of "Haztranzyt" was remembered by government officials once again, but this time in a different manner. Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk is today annoyed primarily by the problem of parity between contributions to the authorized fund of this new joint venture by Ukraine and the "Gazprom" Russian Joint Stock Company. According to Yevhen Kyrylovych [Marchuk], "Haztranzyt" cannot be created to Ukraine's disadvantage, that is, Ukraine cannot be discriminated against in the process of forming the authorized fund. Mykhaylo Kovalko, head of the Committee for Issues of Energy Saving, is of a slightly different opinion. He thinks that the joint venture should be created as fast as possible, since such an act is one of the prerequisites needed to restructure the Ukrainian debt. It seems that the current hullabaloo around "Haztranzyt" is still at its outset, and its outcome may bring many surprises.

Deputy Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko has already met with one pleasant surprise. Negotiations with "Gazprom" representatives have practically led to an agreement on a new transit tariff, which exceed the current one by five times. Now Russia will pay $2.53 for transporting 1,000 cubic meters of gas a distance of 100 kilometers. Taking into account that Russia exports 110 billion cubic meters of gas per year on average across our territory, there will grow a pretty sum of $2.75 billion. It would be enough to cover our expenses connected with buying Russian gas at $80 per 1,000 cubic meters, meaning we could buy 34 some odd billion cubic meters. Should Ukraine introduce the world prices for using its gas reservoirs (on average this is equal to $8 per 1,000 cubic meters per month), it would obtain $80 million for 30 days of storing the current volume of Russian gas (10 billion cubic meters). In such a case, the problems of "Haztranzyt" should have died at their birth, but... for the time being, our debts are kissing similar intentions goodbye.

Moroz Denies Differences With Marchuk on Poverty Line

LD2510152995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1300 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — "Relations between the power structures should not be based on declarations. It is necessary to jointly resolve problems as they appear, in particular, on the setting of a new poverty line in Ukraine. What is needed here is for the parliament, government, and president to work together. There is no dispute over this with [Prime Minister] Yevhen Marchuk," Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, told journalists on 25 October, commenting on the executive power's reaction to the resolution approved by parliament "On the Value of the Poverty Line in Ukraine."

The parliament chairman stressed that in a meeting with the prime minister on 24 October the subject of discussion was not about revoking this resolution but about how it could be implemented. According to him, "the Cabinet of Ministers' statement had been drawn up without Yevhen Marchuk."

Moroz emphasized that "the poverty line had been determined in a correct manner and no one could deny this".

Communists Stage Protests in Several Cities

LD2510223395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1915 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rallies against the economic policy of President Leonid Kuchma took place in several cities today in a Ukrainian-wide protest action organized by the left movement.

In Kharkov, over 4,000 attended a left-wing rally calling for a referendum on the key principles of the new constitution, restoration of the USSR and the Soviet government system, and a ban on pro-fascist organizations.

At a rally in Lugansk, protesters demanded revival of the Soviet Union, resignation of the president and government and a referendum on the Ukrainian Constitution. They urged people to join the Communist Party and commemorate this year's anniversary of the Socialist revolution.

Some 600 gathered in Odessa, calling for the president's resignation, nationalization of banking, the use of Russian as an official language and restoration of the USSR.

Around 300 supporters of the Communist and Socialist parties joined in a rally for workers' solidarity at Sobornaya Square in Chernovtsy, displaying anti-presidential signs and USSR flags. They clashed with members of the local pro-democracy organizations while attempting to lay flowers at the former site of a dismantled Lenin statue. The head of the secretariat at the regional branch of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP], Ostap Yuriychuk, told UNIAN the militia beat up about 20 URP activists. Six were arrested, including the local correspondent of the CHAS newspaper and a regional council deputy.

Speaking to UNIAN, the head of Chernovtsy city directorate for internal affairs, Mykola Kharabara, said: "The militia had to use force to protect the protesters, because the left-wing action had been authorized by the city council executive committee". He denied ordering the arrests.

Leftists Call For Reversal of Policies

WS2610103695 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0157 GMT 26 Oct 95

[By Natalia Petiakh, "Special to IntelNews"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Oct. 25 — Ukraine is being turned into a brothel by international financial circles as the Ukrainian government exclusively guards Western interests, Ukrainian Communist Party Chairman Petro Symonenko said Wednesday [25 October].

Symonenko made the comments during what participants called a "day of united leftist action" at a square near the Arsenal in Kiev late Wednesday afternoon.

The Communist leader went on to say that a Latin American model of economic development is being imposed on Ukraine. President Leonid Kuchma is currently in Brazil on an official visit and will be in Argentina over the weekend.

In addition to the Communists, the action saw participation from the Ukrainian Socialist Party, the All-Ukrainian Workers Union, the Prometey all-Ukrainian society for the protection and development of spiritual culture, the Union of Women Workers, USSR officers union, Rukh, Soyuz (Union), Dity Viyny (Children of War), the Kiev Lenin Komsomol youth organization and the Red Workers Legion youth-sport union.

About 1,000 pensioners constituted the majority of the people gathered.

Carrying flags emblazoned with pictures of Lenin and Stalin, participants called for an end to Ukraine's independent statehood and a return to the Soviet Union.

Workers from Kiev plants said they endorsed "throwing all masters into the same hole." They also voiced support for an armed revolt to wrest power from the bourgeois and return it to workers, peasants and the working intelligentsia.

Symonenko cheered the crowd on as he warned that, under the present leadership, Ukraine would become a source of agricultural raw materials and an exporter of cheap labor to developed countries. He also said the nation was slated to become a nuclear dumping ground.

"Today the genocide of Ukraine's people is ongoing," Symonenko said. He said that the nation is being ripped apart by religious strife, that children are dying from hunger and illness, that locusts are destroying the harvests, and that kerosene lamps have replaced light bulbs.

The rally participants demanded the resignation of President Leonid Kuchma and early parliamentary elections. Furthermore they called for a reversal of most of the current economic reforms, most notably an end to privatization, the re-nationalization of privatized enterprises and the abolition of commercial structures.

Kiev Rally Demands Kuchma Resignation

LD2510222595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1915 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 25 Oct — Around 2,500 workers demanded President Leonid Kuchma's resignation at a rally held by left-wing parties and movements in Kiev. A resolution adopted at the rally states that the All-Ukrainian Union of Workers [AUUW], together with other left movements, would start raising signatures next month in support of a referendum on the president's future.

Speaking at the rally, AUUW chairman Oleksandr Bondarchuk accused the president of "pursuing an anti-popular policy and failing to keep his election promises." He urged all working people to unite in order to defend their interests. "It is the president who is the main destabilizing force in the country, and today he has two options, either change his policy or resign," he said.

In an interview for UNIAN, Bondarchuk said the AUUW planned to act in cooperation with trade unions and other workers movements, including the All-Ukrainian Union for Workers' Solidarity. The unions abstained from today's action, according to

Bondarchuk, because of their continuing talks with the Ukrainian Government.

4,000 Attend Rally in Sevastopol

LD2510222695 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Over 4,000 left-wing supporters joined in a rally on 25 October in Sevastopol, organized by the Working Sevastopol movement. They voiced their emphatic disagreement with the policy of the Ukrainian president and government. A resolution adopted at the rally contained a number of political demands, including suspension of the constitutional treaty and the law on power, abolition of presidency, and accession to the customs and defense union with Russia, Belarus, and other CIS states. With regard to economic issues, the protesters demanded a return to state planning in the industry and agriculture.

The rally called on Sevastopol residents to support a referendum on the restoration of Soviet rule and the socialist principles of Ukraine's development.

Economic Issues

Marchuk Says Military Industry Conversion 'Working'

WS2610112195 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0157 GMT 26 Oct 95

[By Olha Burda, "Special to IntelNews"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Oct. 25 — The transformation of the Artem production company from a military enterprise into a civilian shows that the government's Military Industrial Complex restructuring is working, Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk said Wednesday [25 October] in a visit to the Kiev plant.

According to Marchuk, the enterprise's change in direction enabled Artem workers to produce competitive products and to fulfill market demands. However, the enterprise cannot survive the current difficult financial situation based only on people's initiative alone, the minister said.

Marchuk said the government understood that Artem employees spend some 40 percent of their total incomes on the social sphere. He said this made it difficult for Artem workers to get by without governmental support. Without immediate aid, Marchuk said, the progress made in converting the plant would be lost.

Further Deputy Minister Comment on Inflation, Reform

LD2510144495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1248 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, October 25 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The government draft budget for 1996 provides for an annual inflation rate of 36 per cent, Ukrainian Vice-Premier in Charge of Economic Reform Viktor Pynzenyk told a meeting here today with Dutch Finance Minister Gert Zalm.

Over the past nine months this year, inflation rate hit 232.4 per cent (Interfax - Ukraine note).

Among the most serious problems involved in economic reforms V. Pynzenyk named the need for restructuring big state-run enterprises, which he described as "a very painful question", our correspondent reported. "If the issue remains unsettled, reforms in Ukraine will always face the same choice: to be or not to be," he was quoted as saying.

Pynzenyk also said that a problem "of the same significance" was the creation of a "clear-cut system" for target-oriented assistance to low-income strata of the population.

Currency reserves of the National Bank of Ukraine now stand at 2.5 thousand million USD, the Vice-Premier disclosed. He admitted, at the same time, that 35 per cent of all money was circulating beyond the banking system — in private hands.

Netherlands' Zalm Signs Treaty Promoting Tax Agreement

BR2510163295 Rotterdam ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD in Dutch 25 Oct 95 p 10

[Unattributed report: "Minister Zalm Paving Way in Ukraine"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The Netherlands and Ukraine have signed a new tax treaty which makes it more interesting for Netherlands companies to invest in the former East Bloc country. According to Finance Minister Zalm, the treaty sees to it that companies no longer run the risk of being taxed twice on their revenue and property.

The agreement which was signed by Zalm and his Ukrainian counterpart Hermanchuk yesterday, replaces the old settlement which had still been implemented under the Soviet regime. The latter treaty continued to be effective after the changes in the East Bloc and after Ukraine became independent, but caused increasing problems for companies as a result of changes in national legislation. These changes were often inconsistent with the old treaty.

On the second day of his visit to the country Minister Zalm handed over a survey truck, which must enable the Ukrainian authorities to trace pollution by factories and to record radioactive radiation. The special bus with measuring equipment has been supplied by Kema from Arnhem, with the support of the Economic Affairs Ministry.

Zalm's visit is a consequence of the Netherlands chairmanship of a selection group within the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Zalm urged Prime Minister Marchuk to speed up the restoration of public finances and the scheduled privatization. Otherwise the loans from the IMF and from the World Bank might be at risk.

The minister was accompanied by a trade delegation. During his visit Zalm hopes to remove obstacles facing Netherlands companies, such as bureaucratic rules. Later this week the delegation will visit Georgia and Armenia, two countries hit by armed conflicts.

Belarus

Lukashenka Criticizes NATO Expansion in UN Speech

LD2510175095 Minsk Radiostantsiya Belarus International Service in Belarusian 1900 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at the special festive session of the UN General Assembly devoted to the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, the president of our country, stressed that the expansion of NATO entails unpredictable consequences for the peoples of Europe. On the threshold of the third millennium we should be thinking not of expanding military-political alliances; we should aspire to eliminate the very possibility of wars arising and cut or destroy altogether the stocks of nuclear weapons, Lukashenka noted. Belarus is the first state in history voluntarily to renounce nuclear weapons, but our adherence to the idea of disarmament has created serious economic hardships for the country. To destroy weapons, we are forced to use funds intended for carrying out social programs, the president of Belarus went on to say. He expressed the hope that heads of state of countries [words indistinct] should help sovereign Belarus to solve this question.

NATO Commander: Minsk Has Resumed Destruction of Arms

LD2510222295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1912 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Oct 25 (Interfax-West) — NATO's leadership is satisfied that Belarus is meeting its obligations under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, NATO Supreme Commander in Central Europe Gen. Helge Hansen said Tuesday [24 October] evening. Hansen, in Minsk on a three-day working visit, observed that Belarus had resumed destruction of military equipment in line with the treaty starting October 15.

Belarussian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka decided to halt the destruction of military equipment this February due to "financial problems."

According to the Belarus Defense Ministry, Hansen on Wednesday said that the aim of his visit is "to study the situation in order to develop NATO's and Belarus' further contacts in the framework of the Partnership for Peace program."

Hansen noted that these contacts "could be more successful if Belarus expressed readiness to take more active participation in joint command exercises and to be present at the exercises as an observer," a representative of the Defense Ministry said.

Hansen said he plans to visit Belarus' Military Academy, one of the mechanized military brigades stationed near Minsk and to negotiate with the parliament leadership and Foreign Ministry.

Minister Views Legislature, CIS, Relations With Russia

WS2510122495 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 18 Oct 95 p 1

[Interview with Ivan Bambiza, newly appointed Belarusian minister for CIS issues, by BELTA correspondent Larysa Klyuchnikava; place and date not given: "We Should Primarily Strengthen Economic Integration"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Klyuchnikava] Which of the Supreme Soviet's decision is, in your opinion, the most significant?

[Bambiza] I consider all the decisions made by the legislature significant.

[Klyuchnikava] Including those, which turned the Supreme Soviet into a hostage?

[Bambiza] We started from scratch. We have made a lot of good decisions in five years. However, mistakes do occur. The primary thing is to be capable of admitting this. For instance, I am still hunted by thoughts whether the decision made at one time by the Supreme Soviet concerning the fate of the USSR was the right one. I think that not everything was done to ease the transition period. At the moment, I doubt the necessity of this destruction.

[Klyuchnikava] Do you think that the ratification of the Belavezhskaya Forest agreements was a mistake?

[Bambiza] Time will tell whether it was a mistake. I think that we were not able to foresee the development of the situation. For instance, at that time I was struck by the fact that cooperation was based on the principles similar to those which existed in the past and which guaranteed the preservation of the Soviet Union in a new form. Those primarily were a single economic space, a single customs system, a common currency, a common external border, and joint armed forces. However, in the course of the "sovereignty march" all of us forgot to what degree we are dependent on one another, especially in the economic sphere.

[Klyuchnikava] How do you assess the development of events within the CIS, particularly, the signing of the customs union treaty by Belarus, Kazakhstan, and

Russia, or the signing of the agreement on cooperation between Russia and Belarus?

[Bambiza] In my opinion, a greater dynamism was noticeable within the framework of CIS activities last year, when Belarus became a presidential republic. I can even see certain prospects. I believe that there is a possibility to alleviate the situation caused by the disruption of economic ties. By establishing the customs union we have created normal conditions for economic entities. Thus, we met the requirements for many enterprises.

[Klyuchnikava] There are certain politicians and economists who believe that the customs union between Russia and Belarus will create certain difficulties.

[Bambiza] Yes, there are certain problems; however, all in all the customs union has played a determining role. You surely have noticed that prices are more stable now.

[Klyuchnikava] At the same time, they have come closer to the world prices and even exceeded them. Could this factor be regarded as an indicator of a stabilization of prices?

[Bambiza] No. The point is that due to the abolition of customs duties we have gained a 10 to 30-percent decrease in commodity prices.

[Klyuchnikava] Do you expect integration with Russia in other areas besides the economic one, and how do you assess the Russian Federation Duma's initiative to hold a referendum on the issue of strengthening economic and political integration between our countries?

[Bambiza] Look at Europe. The unification process is actually under way. I believe that we need integration in other areas, too. As for the Russian Federation legislature's initiative, I have not seen any official documents. So far, the issue has not been precisely discussed; therefore, it is difficult to draw any conclusions. I believe that we have to emphasize economic integration. We should not rush people from one extreme situation to another.

[Klyuchnikava] Mr. Bambiza, do you think that it is possible for someone to become a member of a governmental structure and preserve his personality?

[Bambiza] I believe that it is possible. I am trying to do that.

Lukashenka Calls On Vilnius To Pardon Communist Activist

LD2510215195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1841 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has called on his Lithuanian counterpart Algirdas Brazauskas for releasing on bail Professor Ivan Kucherov, an activist of the Lithuanian Communist party, now held at a Vilnius prison on charges of involvement in the 1991 violent confrontation in the Lithuanian capital.

IF Note: Kucherov who emigrated to Belarus after the break up of the Soviet Union had worked as an observer for a communist newspaper before his arrest in Vilnius.

Deputy Presidential Chief of Staff Vladimir Zametalin said the president's move was prompted by humanitarian reasons given that Kucherov was suffering from cancer.

He described as indecent insinuations by the Lithuanian mass media trying to portray Lukashenka's move as an attempt to try to get the release of a Communist hardliner.

Moldova

New Commander Said Cracking Down on Lebed Backer

MK2510134195 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Vadim Yegorov: "A Scandal in Tiraspol. Lebed's Friends 'Under Surveillance'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Mikhail Bergman, commandant of the Tiraspol garrison of the Operational Group of Russian Forces in the Dniester Region, talked in a recent NTV [Independent Television] interview of attempts to gather compromising evidence against the former commander of the 14th Army, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed. The Defense Ministry's reaction was swift: Sergey Zdorikov, chief of the Main Directorate for Indoctrination Work of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, paid a snap visit to the Dniester Region, holding a confidential meeting attended by General Valeriy Yevnevich and top brass of the Moldovan Dniester Republic's security ministry. The result of these meetings [as published] was an order by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev on removing Col. Bergman.

It seems that General of the Army Pavel Grachev is pursuing a consistent policy of "neutralizing" those who in the past backed the disgraced army commander's view that it is inadmissible to dismantle the command and control structure of the 14th Combined Arms Army. For example, Major General Yuriy Popov, the 59th Motorized Rifle Division commander who went on a hunger strike, was publicly promised by Pavel Grachev and his deputy Konstantin Kobets an opportunity to enroll in the General Staff Military Academy. They were not as good as their word — Popov was removed from his position and struck off the personnel list [vyveden za shtat]. He was asked to either accept a discharge from the armed forces or to leave for a remote garrison of the Far Eastern Military District to continue service until retiring on a pension.

For his part, the new commander, Valeriy Yevnevich, proceeded with an iron hand to eradicate sedition among his subordinates with information support from the FSB (Federal Security Service) military counterintelligence section, whose chief, Colonel Nikolay Nikitin, according to some information, has more than 10 informers among servicemen of the Operational Group's headquarters. Many officers in this situation preferred to ask to be discharged from active military service.

Valeriy Yevnevich, it transpires, was helping commissions from Moscow to gather compromising evidence against Gen. Lebed. Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA observer was shown, in the Main Military Budget and Finance Directorate of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, a copy of a report running to many pages on a check conducted, after his discharge, on Aleksandr Lebed's financial activities as commander of the 14th Army. The check had been personally sanctioned by the defense minister. Especially impressive in the "document" is the capably fabricated section "Dynamics of the Growth of Financial Abuses in the 14th Combined Arms Army," which naturally peaked in 1995.

Sangheli Appeals to Media Over Strike Coverage

LD2510221295 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1750 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The republic's mass media should aim their work at strengthening Moldovan statehood "irrespective of the fact who is at power and what orientation this or that newspaper has." Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli voiced this appeal during the meeting with chief editors of newspapers, television, radio and information agencies in Chisinau Tuesday [24 October].

Sangheli called on journalists "not to destroy and not to undermine" the state power because, as he said, "this will finally lead to the collapse of Moldova as a state." According to Sangheli, currently several journalists behave "vice versa" supporting demands of participants of mass strikes in Chisinau.

Despite the Sangheli-declared readiness of the government to consider the strikers' demands "in a civilized form" the Cabinet "will not be led by them." Sangheli underlined that though the government's resignation is possible, "nobody will win."

Sangheli reported that the government would present a detailed report about its activity to the parliament late October - early November. He believes that "only a legislative power body has the right to decide whether the present composition of the Cabinet retains its authorities or not."

IF Note: Mass protest actions of students and pupils were going on in Chisinau from October 18. However, Moldovan students were rallying in the streets on March 18 after the Education Ministry passed a decision to rename, from the Moldovan to Romanian, the courses of language and history in educational institutions.

A protocol on moratorium on protest actions which were resumed last week was signed late spring after President Snegur set forth a legislative initiative to rename the state language from the Moldovan to Romanian and the government promised to satisfy socioeconomic demands.

The strikers' demands, in particular, include resignation of the present government, payment of all kinds of debts and increase of students' stipends.

The presidential commission chaired by presidential adviser on common issues Tudor Kolesnik, which is considering the strikers demands, and representatives of the republican striking committee signed an agreement on moratorium on actions of protest.

The document, in particular, points out that the republican government failed to fulfill socioeconomic demands put forward in the course of spring strikes, among them a demand to liquidate the debt on wage. Due to this the presidential commission pledged "to entirely liquidate the debt on wage, pensions, all kinds of payments and compensations" before December 1. The document characterizes the government-adopted decision on gradual increase of all kinds of payments as "an inappropriate one compared with the minimum consumption budget."

In addition, the agreement fixes the promise of the presidential commission "to ask the parliament to permit both the presence of the representatives of the striking committee and their participation in the parliamentary hearings on the government's activity over nine months of this year" and the wish of the parties to ensure life broadcasting of the hearings over the national radio.

At the same time the document points out that mass protest actions will be resumed if the strikers' major demands are not fulfilled.

Meanwhile, representatives of the strikers declared Wednesday that they suspended the strike only "in order to mobilize forces for a nation-wide protest action" scheduled for October 31. The republic's parliament will hear the government's report about its work for the last nine months this day.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Meets UN Secretary General in New York

LD2610112995 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0400 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 24 October, the last day of the UN General Assembly's solemn meeting to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov met UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who thanked him for coming to New York to take part in the jubilee celebrations. During the course of the conversation the Tajik president and the UN secretary general discussed the situation regarding the inter-Tajik talks and laid stress on political dialogue as the only way of solving the Tajik problem.

The Tajik president informed the secretary general about the measures the country's government was taking to achieve peace and civil accord and to remove existing contradictions for the sake of Tajikistan's future. We firmly stated that we have long been ready to continue the negotiating process, which should not be interrupted. The government is firmly behind accelerating the start of the fifth round. We highly value the efforts made by the United Nations regarding this issue, especially the efforts of Ambassador Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, the UN secretary general's special envoy, and we hope that he will intensify his mediatory efforts, which have already lead to considerable progress in the course of the inter-Tajik settlement — notably the signing of an all-embracing protocol and the extension of the cease-fire agreement to 26 February 1996, Rakhmanov said.

Rakhmanov highly appreciated the UN's tremendous contribution to solving many of the social problems facing the people of Tajikistan after the civil conflict and, on behalf of his people, he expressed cordial gratitude to the UN's representatives.

In Tajikistan, Rakhmanov said, the people know the UN secretary general to be a person of distinction, a great friend of the Tajik people, and they are looking forward to meeting him. Butrus-Ghali thanked Rakhmanov and assured him that he would visit Tajikistan in the middle of next year.

Rakhmanov presented UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali with a book entitled: "Tajikistan-the United Nations. The History of Mutual Relations." The book presents a not so traditional view of the history of the setting up of the United Nations and follows the stages of cooperation between Tajikistan and this international organization.

The conversation was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Rashid Olimov, permanent representative of Tajikistan at the UN Ambassador also took part.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Meets With PRC Politburo Member

LD2510205095 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1640 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today [Turkmen President] Saparmurad Turkmenbashy [Niyazov] received Hu Jintao, a member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China. The People's Republic of China party and state delegation led by Hu arrived in Ashgabat today at the invitation of the Turkmen Government to take part in the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the independence of the country. Hu Jintao gave Saparmurad Turkmenbashy a personal message from Jiang Zemin, the chairman of the People's Republic of China, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, conveying his congratulations and best wishes. [passage omitted]

Saparmurad Turkmenbashy emphasized that in the years since independence an active political dialogue, strengthened by economic cooperation, has developed between Turkmenistan and China. The world community has called the laying of the Turkmenistan-China-Japan gas pipeline the project of the 21st century. Preparatory research has already been carried out for a detailed elaboration of the project. The president of Turkmenistan also noted the need further to broaden trade relations, [word indistinct] cooperation and transport links between the two countries.

Argentine Oil Corporation Estimates Gas Resources

LD2410165495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1159 GMT 24 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHGABAT, Oct 24 (Interfax-PIA) - The Argentine oil corporation Bridas has estimated the resources of hydrocarbons in Yashlar, Turkmenistan.

According to the company press service, the region has about 800 billion cubic meters of natural gas and 27.5 million tonnes of gas condensate.

For several years Bridas has been prospecting raw materials in the valley of the Amu-Darya river as a party to a mixed company with the Turkmen Fuel and Energy Ministry.

A spokesman for Bridas told the Petroleum Information Agency his corporation has had interests in the Central Asian country for three years. The latest geological prospecting has proved that in the future the region will become a major source of fuel. Companies with foreign investments can promote the economic advancement of Turkmenistan.

Bridas is also involved in the international Turkmenistan Transcontinental Pipeline Consortium that will build a pipeline to Europe. It is also working on a preliminary feasibility study of a gas pipeline to Pakistan.

Armenia

President Attends UN Anniversary Special Session

NC2310204695 Yerevan SNARK in English
0609 GMT 23 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, OCTOBER 23 (SNARK)—SNARK was informed by the Press Office of the Armenian President that Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who attends the UN General Assembly session in New York, dedicated to the 50th anniversary of United Nations, held a number of official meetings on October 22.

During the meeting with Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov, issues on extension of trade cooperation between the two countries and gas supply to Armenia were discussed.

Issues concerning the negotiation process on [the Nagorno-] Karabakh conflict within the OSCE [Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe] were discussed during Ter-Petrosyan's meeting with Martti Ahtisaari, Finland's President and Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group.

Armenian President met also the Greek President Konstandinos Stefanopoulos and discussed issues concerning development of the bilateral relations, as well as the EU and international financial support of Armenia.

The same day, Ter-Petrossyan received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. They discussed problems of regional cooperation.

Today, the Armenian President is expected to deliver a speech at the UN General Assembly jubilee session.

President Meets Azerbaijani President, Others

NC2510204295 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan met Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev in the UN lobby reserved for bilateral contacts. The two leaders examined matters relating to the settlement of the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict.

In a briefing to reporters after the meeting, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan stated that the 17-month-long cease-fire was the most valuable achievement of the talks and that the sides have agreed that maintenance and consolidation of the cease-fire is a priority issue for them. At the same time, according to the Armenian president, this does not mean a freeze in the situation and peacemaking efforts should be intensified. This should include more productive and innovative diplomatic work within the OSCE Minsk Group, to find a final solution to the problem.

In concurring with President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's assessments, Azerbaijani President Aliyev noted that such meetings help establish trust between the conflicting sides.

The two presidents underlined the importance of direct contacts.

On the same day, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received Ambassador Vladimir Kazimirov. Ways of settling the Nagorno-Karabakh problem were discussed at their meeting. Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan, Armenian Permanent Representative to the UN Aleksandr Arzumanyan, and Armenian Ambassador to the United States Ruben Shugaryan also attended the meeting.

President Levon Ter-Petrosyan met late at night with the internationally renowned Armenian-American businessman Kirk Kirkoryan.

Azerbaijan

President's Son Registered as Parliamentary Candidate

LD2510214295 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1712 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Oct 25 (Interfax) - The Karadag constituency of Baku registered the Azerbaijani president's son, Elgam Aliyev, as an independent candidate to the republic's parliament. The elections will be held on Nov. 12, 1995.

Aliyev is a vice president of the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijani Republic (SOCAR), responsible for foreign relations.

In his televised seven-minute interview to which each parliamentary candidate is entitled, Aliyev supported both the attraction of foreign investments into the republic and faster privatization of state property. "We will not be able to build a market economy" if these problems remain unsolved, he added. The state should limit itself only to definition of the economic strategy and perfection of the taxation policy, he said.

Having made its future depend on its Caspian shelf contract for the next 30 years, Azerbaijan will soon feel its results, Aliyev underlined. The project brought the republic over $100 million of investments this year alone, he remarked. Next year, they will reach $700 million and will eventually rise, he added.

"We should be realistic about things," Aliyev noted. The real state of affairs in the economy is such that it does not allow any dramatic changes in the social sphere. At the same time, it is in the social sphere where great progress may be achieved provided the profits from the oil project are properly managed.

Profits are expected to total $60 billion within the next 30 years, Interfax has learned.

Aliyev highlighted preserving and strengthening Azerbaijan's independence as his main political goal. "No one will hamper us on this path, be it external forces, economic blockade, political sabotage or other kinds of pressure," he stated.

Baku Planning New Offshore Oil Exploration, Development

LD2510152195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Oct 25 (PIA-Interfax) — Azerbaijan is preparing a new project for the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas fields in the Caspian Sea on production sharing terms, a source in the State Oil Company of Azerbaijani Republic told the Petroleum Information Agency. He said the new promising site of Umid on the shelf of the Caspian Sea 50 kilometers south of Baku would be put on offer.

Baku struck a similar deal with an international oil consortium on the development of the Azeri, Chirag and Gyuneshli sites last year and agreements are now ready for signing on Shakh-Deniz, Karabakh and other fields.

Azerbaijan plans to offer the Umid project for cooperation with leading international oil and gas companies and representatives of US Occidental Petroleum are due to arrive in Baku in the next few days to discuss the project.

SOCAR chief geologist Akif Narimanov told PIA that Umid may turn out to be a large gas field whose reserves are estimated at 300 billion cubic meters of natural gas.

Geophysic studies indicate it is a promising site but Umid is still to be confirmed as being a gas field.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Discusses Ties With Russia

WS2610112695 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 19 Oct 95 p 11

[Interview with Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze, by Wojciech Jagielski; place and date not given: "A Happy Man" — Georgian names are as published]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Jagielski] You can only envy someone who has such a security minister. Did you find him on your own? Is it true that you appointed Giorgadze [as security minister] only after a phone call from Moscow?

[Shevardnadze] There was no phone call. Igor Giorgadze was recommended by Jaba Ioseliani (Jaba Ioseliani is one of the most flamboyant and mysterious figures in Georgian politics. When he was young, he spent 18 years in jail for robbing banks and bank vans. Later, he became a professor of theater science and a writer. In the late 1980s, he became leader of a paramilitary organization called Mkhedrioni which fought all wars inside Georgia. In January 1992, together with commander of the Georgian National Guards Tengiz Kitovani, he ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia and welcomed Eduard Shevardnadze back in the country, giving him power. At present, Kitovani is serving jail time, while Ioseliani, after the Mkhedrioni was disarmed, is pushed onto the political fringe — WJ)

[Jagielski] They say about Giorgadze that he is a "man of the Kremlin." I heard that as a security minister, he was a guarantor of Georgia's loyalty to Russia and the CIS. A similar role was reportedly played by Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze, who recently was [Russian Defense Minister] General Grachev's godfather. I also heard that the next most important political figure in Georgia after you is General Fyodor Reut, commander of the Russian troops stationed in your country. Are you a cardboard king?

[Shevardnadze] What Reut? These are all rumors. Before he was appointed minister, Giorgadze worked for the Soviet KGB — both here and in Moscow. He has friends in that organization. He may not have fulfilled their orders, but he definitely had their support. It was with them, not the Kremlin, with whom he maintained contacts. I would call those people enemies of Yeltsin and the Russian Government rather than his friends.

[Jagielski] Why did you keep him in that position for so long? The opposition had long accused him of terrorism and murdering political opponents. Not only did you refuse to put him in jail, but you also promoted him to general.

[Shevardnadze] There were no facts proving that he was behind all this. The opposition did accuse him. But you know just how it is in our parliament. Deputies very often get carried away. They yell and demand resignations and arrests. As for the rank of general, I promoted him because he averted another civil war in the country. In January, Kitovani gathered some people and went to Abkhazia. He was not at all seeking revenge for the lost war in 1993. He was out to destroy the feeble stabilization that we had managed to achieve there. I ordered Giorgadze to stop Kitovani and he fulfilled that order as a master of his craft. Generally speaking, he at first was professional and efficient as the security minister. He reorganized the ministry and created special anti-terrorist units...

Not A Single Step Without Russia

[Jagielski] Russia keeps coming up in our conversation about Georgia.

[Shevardnadze] In the present geopolitical reality, Georgia can only live in friendship with Russia. We need Russia and Russia needs us. My impression is that we have managed to establish exactly this kind of mutually beneficial relationship.

[Jagielski] Georgia has paid dearly for those benefits. Joining the CIS, it surrendered some of its sovereignty, accepting Russian military basses on its territory. Earlier, it lost wars with Russian-backed secessionists from Abkhazia and south Osetia. It is particularly strange to hear words about friendship with Russia from you — a man who has already been once betrayed by Moscow. In the summer of 1993, Russia allowed Abkhazians to attack Sukhumi and drive Georgians out of the city. You yourself were in Sukhumi at that time and narrowly saved your life.

[Shevardnadze] Quarrels, let alone a conflict, with Russia would mean a catastrophe for Georgia. If the United Nations and the West wanted to and could help us, I would have probably opted for a different policy. But our place on the Earth is determined by geopolitics. Rude as it may sound, this is realpolitik. I agreed to Russian military bases in Georgia not because we are threatened by Turkey, Iran, or NATO. We maintain excellent relations with those states. It was Russia that needed those bases, considering the Caucasus and the Trans-Caucasian region its own security zone. And the West accepts that.

Russia helps us build our Army, security forces, and the police. Where else could I obtain money for arms or even uniforms for my people? The West will not send it to me. Russian soldiers protect our border with Turkey against drug trafficking, gun-running, and terrorism. For the time being, we are not able to protect our border on our own. In exchange for this, Russia committed itself to restore Georgia's territorial integrity. Just as the problems of the Trans-Dniester region or Nagorno-Karabakh, the problems of Abkhazia and south Osetia cannot be resolved without Russia. If all political means are exhausted, both we and Russia should think about other tools, including military ones.

[Jagielski] Does this mean that now that Georgia wants to become friends with Russia, the latter is ready to quench conflicts which it itself kindled when Georgia wanted to go it alone?

[Shevardnadze] This is realpolitik. For me, it was not an easy decision to accept Georgia membership in the CIS. I spent many sleepless nights, with various sorts of thoughts running through my head. Finally, I decided that there was no other way.

[Jagielski] Do you now think that Russia will no longer betray you?

[Shevardnadze] I base my belief on realpolitik. The agreements on military bases have been initially approved, but I will not sign them until after Abkhazia and south Osetia return to Georgia. After all, Russia felt on its own back what separatism means. It has also realized that it needs a friendly Georgia. If we had not closed our border with Chechnya, instead helping Dudayev's guerrillas, the Caucasus would have become another Afghanistan.

[Jagielski] In Poland, we often talk about whether we should fear Russia. What would you tell us?

[Shevardnadze] You should not fear Russia. Why would a state with a population of 40 million and located not somewhere on the outskirts of Asia, but in the middle of Europe, fear Russia? Times have changed. I remember that even in the 1980s, when the opposition was mounting in Poland and the Soviet leadership did not like it, no one was considering sending troops to your country. The cold war is over. And if some politicians resort to cold-war rhetoric, it still is only rhetoric. [passage omitted]

Abkhazia's Russians Threaten To Occupy Border Posts

LD2510162895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1610 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian-speaking population of the Georgian breakaway enclave of Abkhazia warned that it would occupy Russian border posts unless Russian naval border troops lift the blockade of the enclave's capital Sukhumi.

Chairman of the Congress of Russian Communities Gennadiy Nikitchenko told Itar-Tass that the 70,000 Russian community of Abkhazia was worst hit by the blockade which shuts the sea route for the humanitarian aid from the International Red Cross and for the coming of pension and salary funds.

Abkhazian Ambassador to Russia Igor Fakhba admitted that the Russian community is in plight.

However, Fakhba said the Russian-speaker population is as hard-up as other ethnic groups of Abkhazia, all hit by the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict and waiting help from Russia.

The threat to seize Russian border posts is a gesture of despair which may not be left unheeded, Fakhba said.

Abkhazia Ready For Georgia Talks if Sea Blockade Lifted

LD2510181195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 25 Oct 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 25 (Itar-Tass) — Abkhazia has announced it is ready to continue talks with Tbilisi on the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict on condition that the sea blockade is lifted first, Abkhazian Foreign Minister Leonid Lakerbaya told Itar-Tass by telephone from Sukhumi today.

According to the Abkhazian Minister, the Russian coast guards have been blocking the port of Sukhumi for several days preventing Abkhazian ships from leaving the port. According to the Minister, the blockade can push the population of the republic to the verge of extinction.

The sea routes ensured the delivery of humanitarian aid to the multi-national population of Abkhazia from Greece, Israel and Turkey. Those deliveries compensated to a certain extent for the economic difficulties caused by the blockade of Abkhazia's land border along the river Psou.

As concerns Abkhazia's readiness for the next round of talks with Georgia under Russia's aegis, Lakerbaya said "the Abkhazian side will come up with specific proposals."

In addition, Abkhazia's agreement to re-open the railway on Abkhazian territory that has been idle since the beginning of the war, provides ground for counting on reciprocity. But he insisted on preconditions for resuming talks. "Our delegation will sit down at the negotiating table only if the sea blockade is lifted, regardless of the political motives or commitments behind it," Lakerbaya said.

Approached by Itar-Tass for comment on the situation off the Sukhumi port, a deputy chief of the Federal Border Service of Russia said he was "not informed." Other Federal Service officials however told Itar-Tass on condition of anonymity that the coast guards only executed the political will of the country's highest officials. The blockade would be lifted as soon as word is received from above, they said.

Shevardnadze on Need To Solve Problem of Refugees

LD2510215795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1750 GMT 25 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The issue on lifting the blockade of the rail way section laid through Abkhazia, which unites Georgia with Russia, will be solved only in the case if it is possible to settle the problem on the return of Georgian refugees to Abkhazia, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said in the course of his meeting with the republic's rail way workers Tuesday [24 October].

Mentioning the problems facing Georgian transport workers Shevardnadze declared that after the exposure of the corrupted leadership of the rail road department "many things are to be done anew on the rail way transport" whose perspectives of development are "rather wide," according to Shevardnadze. He said that the perspectives primarily concern a wide utilization of the Eurasian transport corridor in the near future.

In the course of this meeting Shevardnadze twice voiced a half-joking statement saying that the issue on Georgia's future president "has been solved already" and now the rail way workers should make the right choice nominating candidates to the parliament deputies.

Bloc Appeals to World Not To Support 'Tyrant' Shevardnadze

AU2510153395 Tbilisi AGHDGOMA in Georgian 11-20 Oct 95 p 4

["Appeal to the Embassies of the World's States To Be Transmitted to Their Governments From the All-Georgian Party of Zviad Antielectoral Bloc 'Aghsdek, Sakartvelo!'" issued in Tbilisi on 3 October: "Do Not Support the Tyrant"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The so-called attack on the de facto head of state, which occurred on 29 August of this year, was a populist terrorist act and yet another spectacle organized by Shevardnadze himself in the preelection period; he needed to do this to create the image of a political leader fighting for democracy and law and order and a statesman who is a martyr.

Following the terrorist act of 29 August, Shevardnadze has further strengthened the police regime in the country in order to oppress and terrorize the people before the elections; he has introduced a medical service for which one has to pay in conditions of extreme poverty for the population, which is purposefully aimed at the physical destruction of his own people while the new monetary reform has further exacerbated the people's economic situation.

In conditions of the economic, social, national, and political crisis that has been created in the country, Shevardnadze has no guarantee whatsoever of victory in the presidential elections to be held on 5 November. Consequently, he scheduled both presidential and parliamentary elections on the same day so that, in the event of people turning up to vote in the parliamentary elections, he would easily manage to rig the presidential elections. Moreover, Shevardnadze's dictatorial regime has reigned supreme in the country during the preelection period: The opposition has been denied the right to appear on television and radio and hold rallies and demonstrations; repressions against Shevardnadze's political opponents are raging; completely undemocratic conditions are being created in which to conduct an election campaign; political organizations and individuals participating in the elections are not being provided with electoral funds, are not being granted airtime, and so forth. Everything is being monopolized by Eduard Shevardnadze and his political organization — the Union of [Georgia's] Citizens [UGC]. Leading members of the UGC are extracting written promises from factory workers and employees in institutions that they will vote for Eduard Shevardnadze and his UGC, failing which they are indirectly threatening them with dismissal and various other restrictions. We, the All-Georgian Party of Zviad [Gamsakhurdia] antielectoral bloc "Aghsdek, Sakartvelo!" [Rise, Georgia], which was created with the aim of actively boycotting Shevardnadze's illegal and undemocratic elections and which unites national-political organizations and individuals, appeal to the governments of the world's states not to support Shevardnadze's presidency and not to recognize his illegal and rigged elections because, according to Igor Giorgadze, former head of the Security Service, the foreign credits that were allocated to Georgia are being directly used by E. Shevardnadze for his election campaign and, at the same time, Shevardnadze has already prepared sealed ballot boxes that will guarantee his becoming president. In this way, in conditions of the cruel regime of the tyrant Shevardnadze, the Georgian people and the Republic of Georgia will continue to have no prospects and will be condemned to its final destruction. We ask you to take no more part in the misfortunes of the Georgian people and the merciless collapse of the Georgian state.

[Dated] 3 October, 1995
Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia

Estonia

Parliament Grants Vahi 7 Days To Form Government

LD2610112495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1025 GMT 26 Oct 95

[By Albert Maloverian]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TALLINN, October 26 (Itar-Tass) — Fifty- five of the Estonian parliament members today voted in favour of appointing Tiit Vahi a new head of government and giving him seven days to form the Cabinet of Ministers.

The preceding government headed by Vahi resigned on October 12 over the so-called "tape-recording" scandal relating to the tapping of conversations between the republic's leading politicians. The then Interior Minister, Edgar Savisaar, was involved in the scandal.

Today, Tiit Vahi told the parliament that his new Cabinet would regard the improvement of relations with Estonia's eastern neighbor, Russia as one of priorities. Along with this, he said Estonia's foreign political concept would remain in place and his Cabinet had no intention of making any concessions in relations with Russia. He called for improving relations with the eastern neighbor through signing a new border agreement.

Vahi noted that the new government would not make any substantial changes to the Estonian laws on citizenship, the state language and foreigners.

Likely Cabinet Composition

WS2510142295 Tallinn ETA in English 1908 GMT 24 Oct 95

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Oct. 24 — On Tuesday chairman of Reform Party Siim Kallas and leader of Coalition Party and Rural Union (KMU) Tiit Vahi signed an addition to coalition agreement which gave a final touch to formation of the new government.

With the document KMU and Reform Party distributed ministerial portfolios among them. Coalition Party will get in the new government seats of Prime, Finance, Justice, Defence, Culture and Euroreform Ministers. Reform Party will get seats of Foreign, Economy, Interior, Social, Transport and Communications, and Education Minister.

Rural Union will get posts of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Ministers.

Riigikogu [parliament] will on Thursday [26 October] give Tiit Vahi powers to form the new government. Vahi will need majority of affirmative votes of MPs present and should encounter no problems in receiving it as Reform Party and KMU have a total of 60 seats in the parliament.

Although the names of the ministers were not yet made public, the following persons have ensured a seat in the government, a leading member of the coalition, who asked not to be named, said:

Tiit Vahi (KMU) — Prime Minister
Siim Kallas (R) — First Deputy PM and Foreign Minister
Mart Opmann (KMU) — Finance Minister
Andres Lipstok (R) — Transport and Communications Minister
Toomas Vilosius (R) — Social Minister
Paul Varul (KMU) — Justice Minister
Andrus Oovel (KMU) — Defence Minister
Ilmar Mandmets (KMU) — Agriculture Minister
Villu Reiljan (KMU) — Environment Minister
Jaak Allik (KMU) — Culture Minister
Endel Lippmaa (KMU) — Euroreforms Minister

Chairman of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Toomas Luman has been mentioned as a possible Economy Minister, deputy rector of Tartu University Jaak Aaviksoo and dean of Tallinn Pedagogical University Mati Heidmets as candidates for the post of Culture and Education Minister, and Mart Rask, a well-known lawyer who has already been on the post before, as Justice Minister.

The exact composition of the government will be made public in the next few days, Tiit Vahi told ETA.

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